



GUNSLINGER GIRL

DIGITAL EDITION

STORY & ART BY
YU AIDA

Vol. 14



SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

GUNSLINGER GIRL

VOLUME 14

story and art by YU AIDA

TRANSLATION
Adrienne Beck

ADAPTATION
Janet Houck

RETOUCH AND LETTERING
Roland Amago

LAYOUT
Bambi Eloriaga-Amago

COVER DESIGN
Nicky Lim

COPY EDITOR
Shanti Whitesides

EDITOR
Adam Arnold

PUBLISHER
Jason DeAngelis

GUNSLINGER GIRL VOLUME 14

Copyright © 2011 Yu Aida

First published in 2011 by ASCII MEDIA WORKS, Tokyo, Japan.

English translation rights arranged with ASCII MEDIA WORKS.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form without written permission from the copyright holders. This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

Seven Seas books may be purchased in bulk for promotional, educational, or business use. Please contact your local bookseller or the Macmillan Corporate and Premium Sales Department at 1-800-221-7945, extension 5442, or by e-mail at MacmillanSpecialMarkets@macmillan.com.

Seven Seas and the Seven Seas logo are trademarks of Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC. All rights reserved.

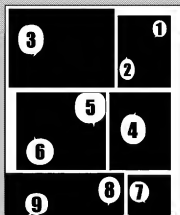
Ebook Edition: July 2017

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

FOLLOW US ONLINE: www.gomanga.com

READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from *right to left*, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but it's the way manga is read.



C H A R A C T E R S

登場人物紹介



JOSE CROCE

Ex-Carabinieri, he has been consumed by the need for vengeance since losing his family to a terrorist bombing. When Henrietta began showing signs of late-stage drug addiction, he approved extreme measures to keep her battle-ready.



HENRIETTA

The only survivor of a slaughtered family of six. Thanks to her "conditioning" when she was converted into a cyborg, she is blindly in love with her handler, Jose. She has begun showing signs of late-stage addiction to the drug that all cyborgs use.

JEAN CROCE

Jose's older brother. Very serious-minded and business-like. He is the cyborg handlers' leader and field commander for Section 2 operations. Like Jose, he has sworn vengeance on the terrorists who killed their family.



RICO

Former quadriplegic. Innocent and cheerful, even the most common everyday things bring her much joy. Her handler is Jean.



VICTOR HILSHIRE (HARTMAN)

German. Former detective with Europol. His only desire is to see Triela live as long as possible. He considers it his duty to watch over and protect her.



TRIELA

Responsible and conscientious, Triela is the "big sister" of the cyborgs. Having learned about her past, she has decided that she wants to live. Her handler is Hilshire.

ALESSANDRO (SANDRO) RICCI

Petrushka's handler. Prior to his transfer, his missions centered around infiltrating Padania terrorist groups. He has a talent for observation.



PETRUSHKA (PETRA)

The first of the new second-generation cyborgs. She respects her handler Alessandro as a partner, and she has a crush on him from more than just her "conditioning."





GIACOMO DANTE

An experienced terrorist behind many well-known acts of terrorism. He is the prime suspect in the Croce Incident. His personal philosophy is that war is mankind's true nature.



IBRAHIM ASHIQ

A Middle Eastern terrorist, and one of Giacomo's men. Skilled in computer programming, he once studied abroad in Europe.



CLAES

When she lost her handler, she became the Agency's "guinea pig" cyborg. All cyborg developments are first tested on her.



MARCO

Ex-Special Forces, he was the handler for the late cyborg Angelica.



ROBERTA GUELLFI

Chief Prosecutor for the Croce Incident case, she is currently assigned to the Naples District Court. Triela saved her life in the past.



CRISTIANO SAVONAROLA

Former core leader of the Milan Group branch of the Five Republics Faction. He hired Giacomo Dante to get revenge on the Agency.



RENATO PISANO

Prime Minister of Italy. He has a lot of power in both political and economic circles.



DRAGHI

Social Welfare Agency Section 1 Chief. He sees Section 2 and their cyborgs as rivals.



LORENZO

Section 2 chief. Formerly employed with the Ministry of State's anti-terrorism division.



MONICA MARIA PETRIS

Director of both Section 1 and 2. She has taken a hard line stance in opposition to terrorism.

K E Y W O R D S

用語解説

[CYBORG]

Experimental technology created by the Agency. Critically-injured children have their natural muscles and organs replaced with artificial ones, then they are brainwashed by a special procedure called "conditioning".

[FIVE REPUBLICS FACTION]

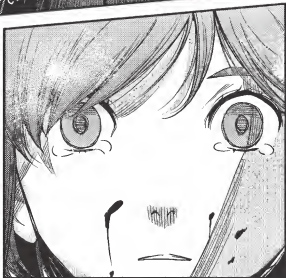
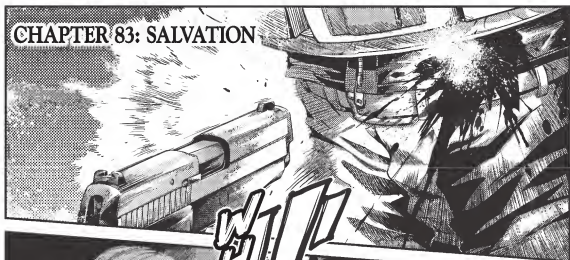
Commonly referred to as "Padania." An anti-globalization, right-wing group advocating for the affluent Northern provinces of Italy to secede and form their own country.

[THE SOCIAL WELFARE AGENCY]

A counter-intelligence organization created in secret by the Prime Minister's office, charged with curbing the growth of radical-right groups in an already turbulent Italy.



CHAPTER 83: SALVATION





SIGNORE
JOSE,
HANG IN
THERE!!

SIGNORE
JOSE!!

WH-WHAT
JUST
HAPPENED?

WHAT
DID I
DO?!



THERE...
THERE'S
NO...
SAVING...
ME.



H-
HEN...

HENRIETTA
...

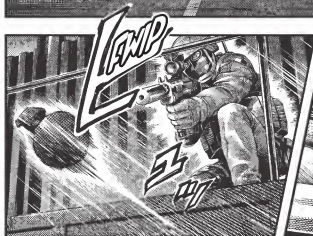
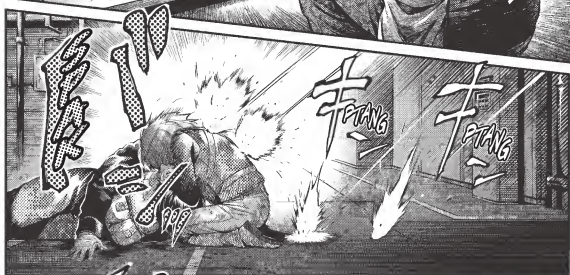
GET...
B-BEHIND
COVER...



SO THIS
IS HOW IT
ENDS.

I FAILED
IN MY
QUEST
FOR
REVENGE,
BUT...

DYING BY
HENRIETTA'S
HAND
ISN'T THAT
BAD.





I...



I-IF
YOU'RE
GONNA
DIE,
SIGNORE
JOSE...

THEN
I...



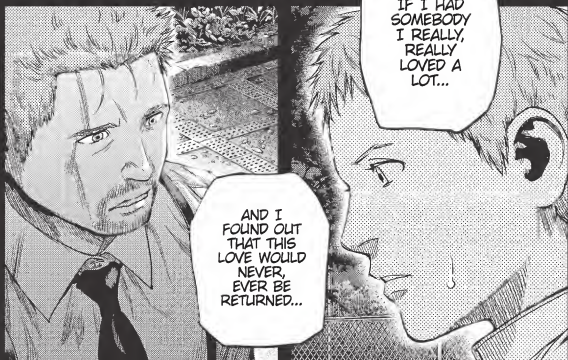
NO,
HE HAD
HARDLY ANY
CONTACT
WITH HER
OUTSIDE OF
A JOB.

WAS
SIGNORE
LAURO
EVER VERY
NICE TO
ELSA?



THEN
WHAT
PROBABLY
HAPPENED
WAS
THIS.

OKAY...



IF I HAD
SOMEBODY
I REALLY,
REALLY
LOVED A
LOT...

AND I
FOUND OUT
THAT THIS
LOVE WOULD
NEVER,
EVER BE
RETURNED...



THEN...

I'D KILL
HIM.
AND AFTER
HE WAS
DEAD...

I'D DO
THIS.



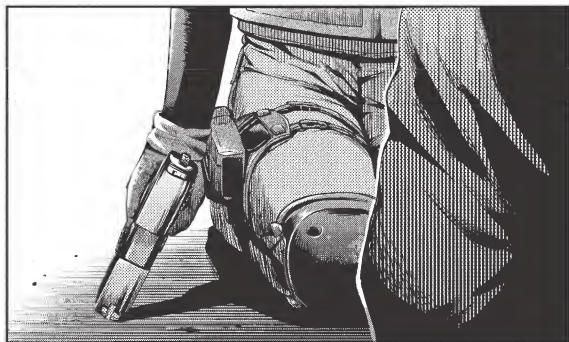
THAT'S
RIGHT.



WH-
WHAT
YOU
WANT...

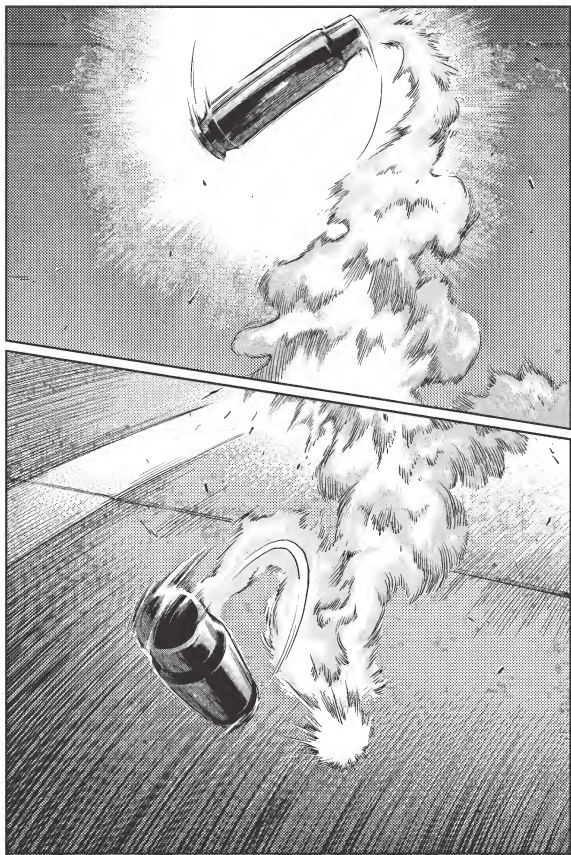


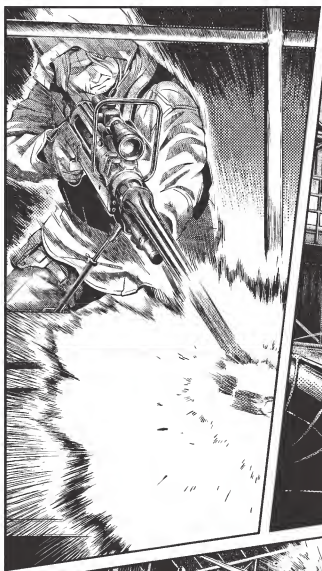
IS
THIS,
ISN'T
IT.

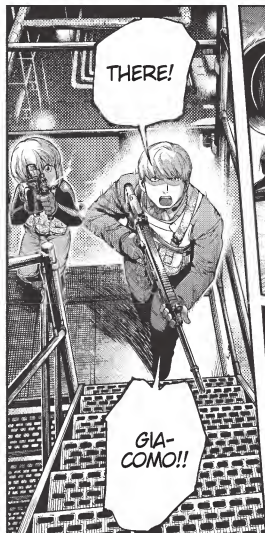


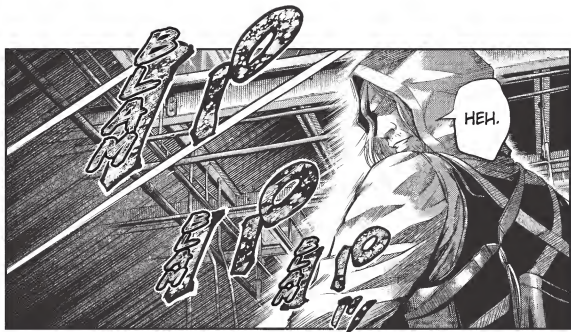
YES,
SIR.

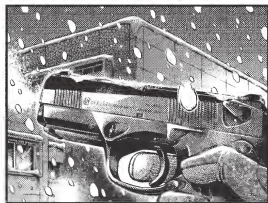
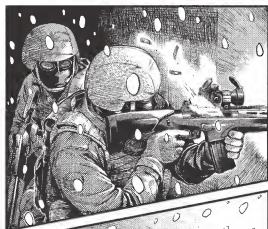
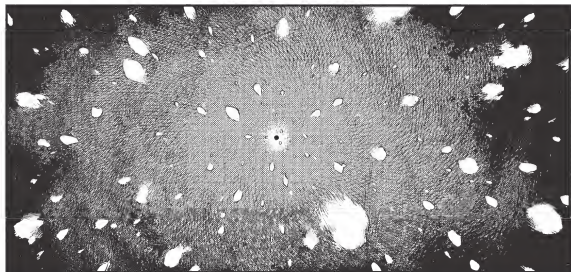








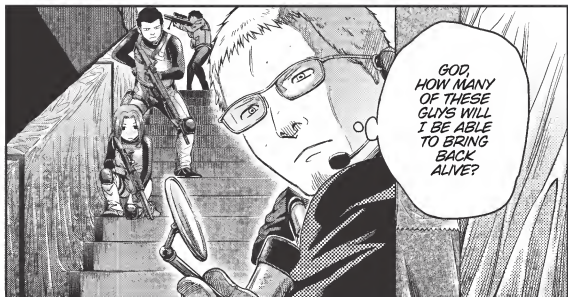








CHAPTER 84: A CHANCE MEETING WITH THE PAST



GOD,
HOW MANY
OF THESE
GUYS WILL
I BE ABLE
TO BRING
BACK
ALIVE?



GO!



WE HIT
IT AT A
DEAD
SPRINT.
CLEAR?

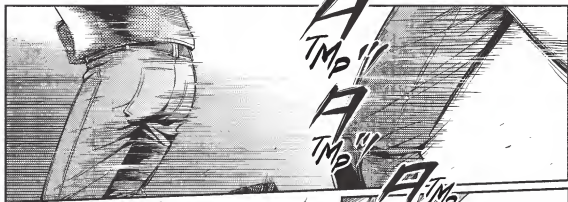
THERE IS
AN ELEVATOR
150 METERS
AHEAD. IT'S A
STRAIGHT
SHOT DOWN
THIS HALL.

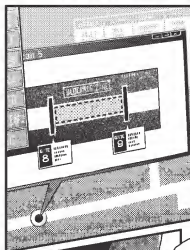


WE'RE
GONNA MAKE
ONE PUSH
STRAIGHT
THROUGH,
ALL THE WAY
TO THE
COMMAND
ROOM.

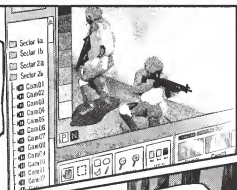


FRECCIA
AND SONI,
YOU
TWO GET
POINT.





DAMN IT!
THIS
WAS A
TRAP,
TOO!!

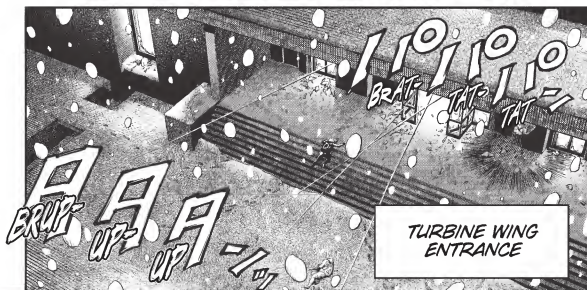
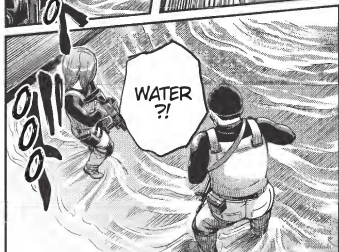


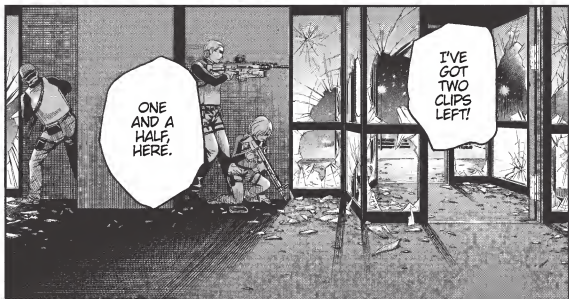
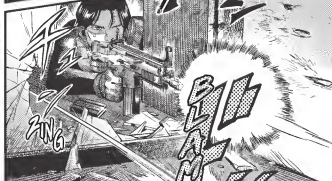
OKAY,
EVERYBODY.
WATCH OUT
FOR THE
RICOCHET!



GAT-
TONELO!

SEE IF
YOU CAN
PUNCH A
HOLE
THROUGH
THIS THING
WITH YOUR
AW50.







SANDRO,
BACK ME
UP ON
THIS!

GOTCHA!



HN?
O-OH...

PETRA,
C'MON!



DAMN IT.
WE WON'T
BE ABLE
TO HOLD
THIS
POSITION.

OKAY,
LISTEN UP!
WE'RE
GONNA
PULL BACK
AND LURE
THE ENEMY
INSIDE.

ONCE WE'VE
GOT THEM
PINNED IN THE
SMALLER
HALLWAYS,
WE'LL TAKE
'EM OUT AND
GRAB THEIR
AMMO.



DASH



WE NEED
YOU TO RUN
OUT THERE
AND DRAW
THEIR
ATTENTION.

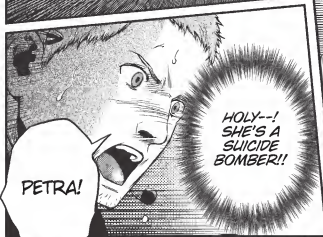


BUT IT'S
TIME FOR
SOME
MORE
CIRCUS
STUNTS.

I REALLY
DON'T
WANNA
DO
THIS...



HUH?

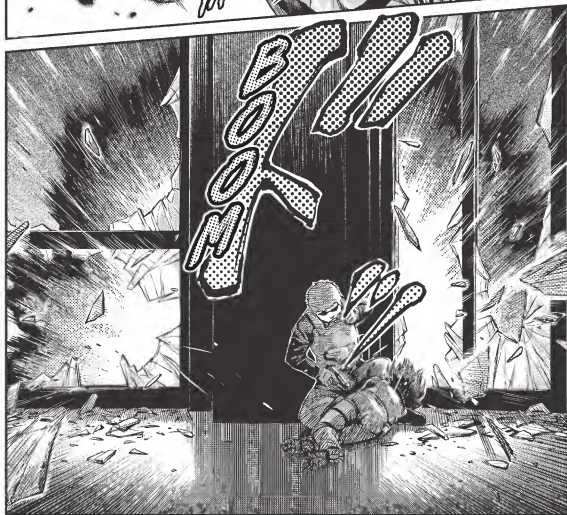


PETRA!

HOLY--!
SHE'S A
SUICIDE
BOMBER!!



SHOOT
OUT
HER
LEGS!!



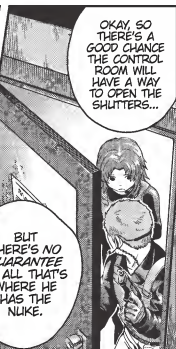








IT'LL BE
THERE.
I KNOW
IT!



OKAY, SO
THERE'S A
GOOD CHANCE
THE CONTROL
ROOM WILL
HAVE A WAY
TO OPEN THE
SHUTTERS...

BUT
THERE'S NO
GUARANTEE
AT ALL THAT'S
WHERE HE
HAS THE
NUKE.



WE HAVE
TO FIND A
WAY TO
CLIMB UP
THAT HE
HASN'T
THOUGHT
OF.



GIACOMO
HAS THIS
WHOLE
COMPLEX
LITTERED
WITH
TRAPS.



I'M NOT
GETTING
CARRIED AWAY
BY SOME
HIGH-HANDED
MORALITY,
I PROMISE.

IT'S
JUST I...
I HAVE
THIS REALLY
STRONG
GUT FEELING
THAT I
HAVE TO
DO THIS.



UM,
SANDRO?
?

I'M
SORRY I'M
BEING SO
STUBBORN
ABOUT
THIS.



I'M
TRYING
TO
THINK
HERE!

SO STAND
BACK AND
SHUT UP
FOR A
MINUTE,
OKAY?!

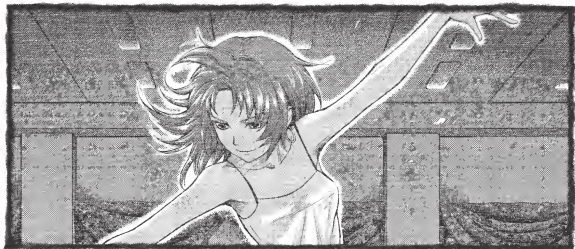
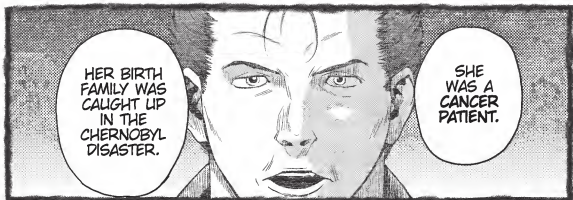


OKAY...



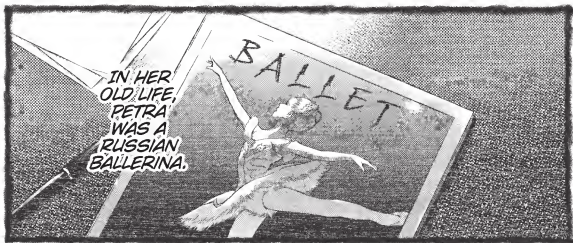
IT'S
ALMOST
AS IF
SOMETHING
FROM MY
OLD LIFE
IS...

QUIET
!!

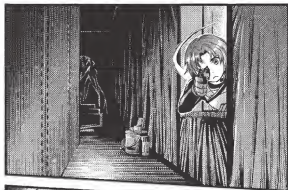


*I
KNOW.*

*I KNOW,
DAMMIT!*

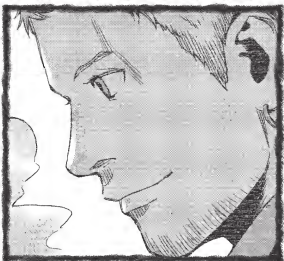
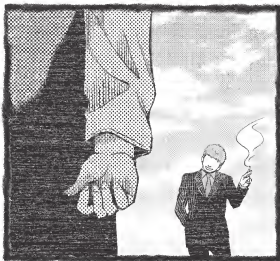
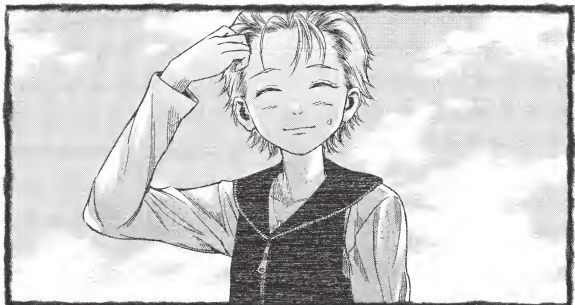






WHAT
DO YOU
WANT
ME TO
DO,
HUH?!

DAMN
IT
ALL....!



*I ONLY
MET
HER
ONCE!*

CHAPTER 85: ERINYES (1)



I THOUGHT
I WAS A
MAN WHO
DID NOT
NEED LOVE.
I DIDN'T
NEED TO
HAVE IT,
NOR TO
GIVE IT.



BUT
THEN
SHE
CAME.





AND
WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH
THAT,
SIR?

THAT JUST
MEANS
YOU'RE ALL
THE MORE
DEVOTED
TO YOUR
CAUSE.



MY OWN
SELF AND
MY OWN
GOALS ARE
PARAMOUNT
TO ME.



IN FACT,
LISTENING
TO WHAT
YOU JUST
SAID,
IT SEEMS
OBVIOUS...

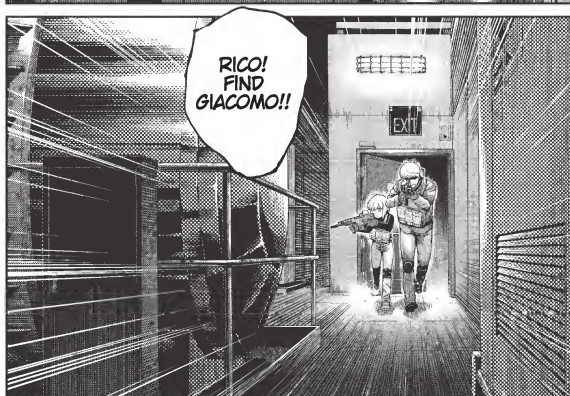
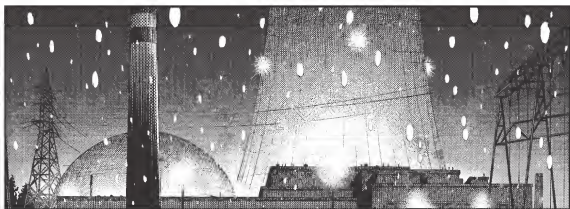
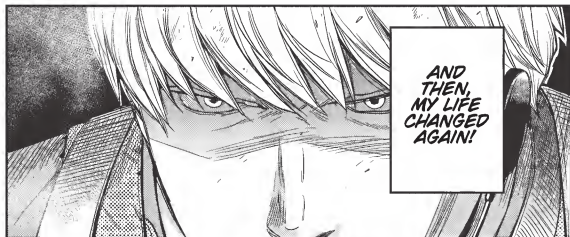
THAT
KIND OF
DEVOTION
IS REALLY
HUMAN
TO ME.

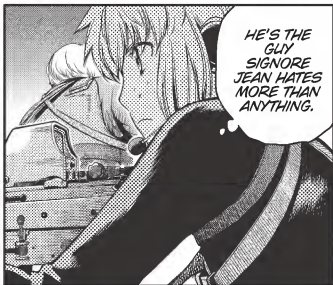
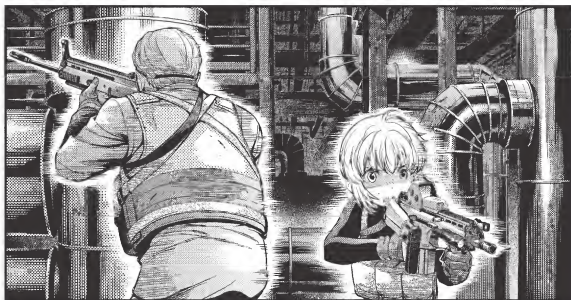


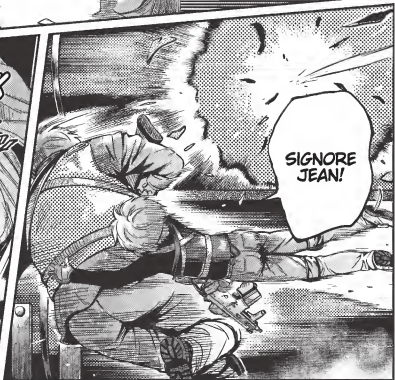
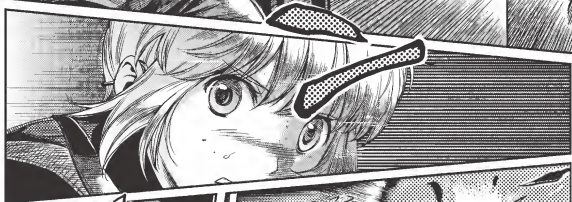
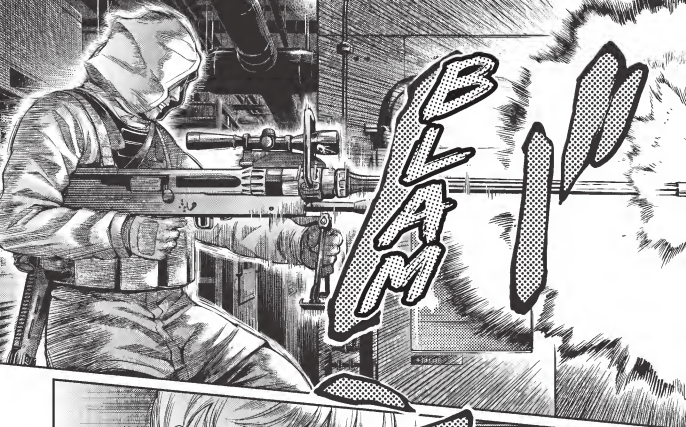
IT
CHANGED
ME,
IRREVO-
CABLY.

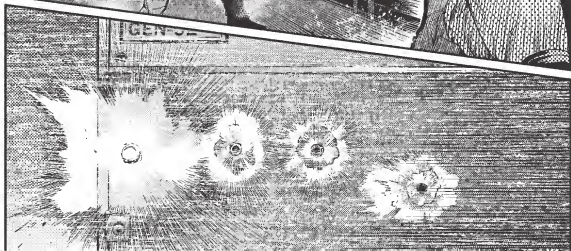
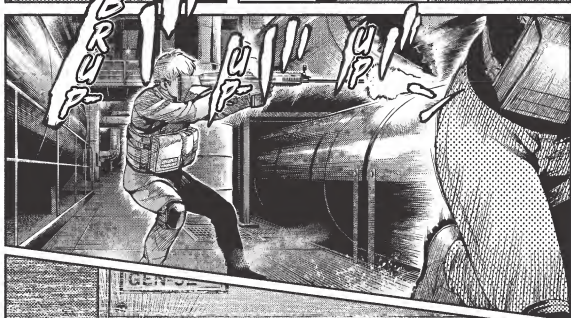
YOU
AREN'T
NEARLY AS
UNFEELING
AS YOU
THINK YOU
ARE.

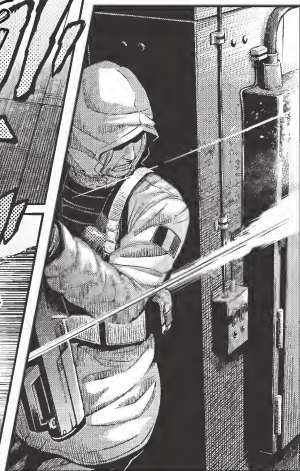
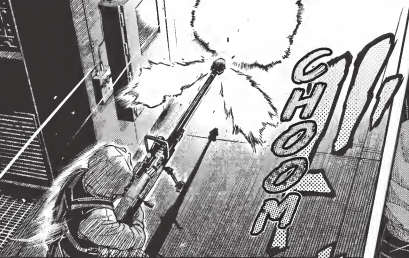
MEETING
SOPHIA
CHANGED
MY LIFE.





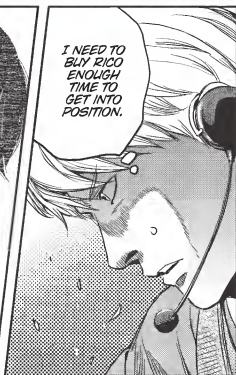


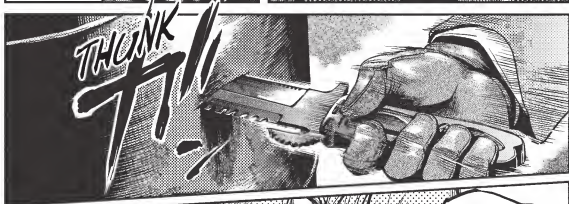




GIA-COMO!

WHAT WAS THE POINT OF TAKING OVER THIS FACILITY? WHAT ARE YOU AFTER?!

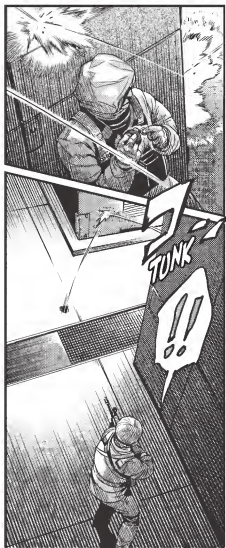










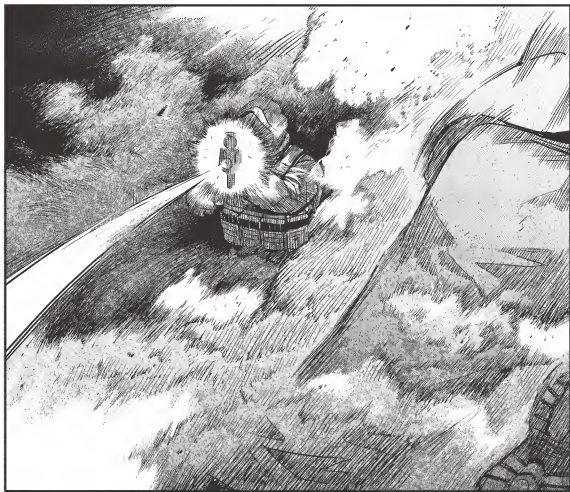
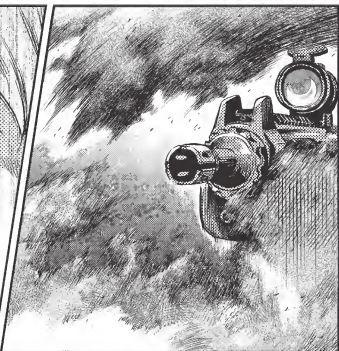


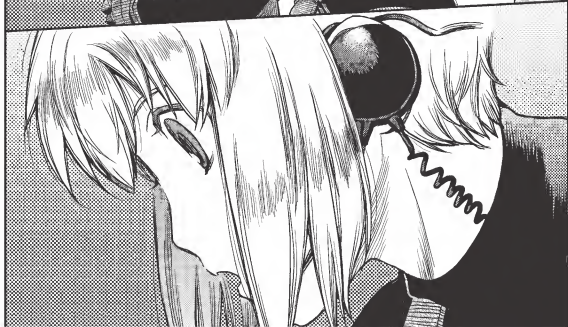
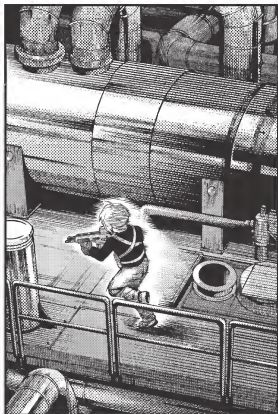
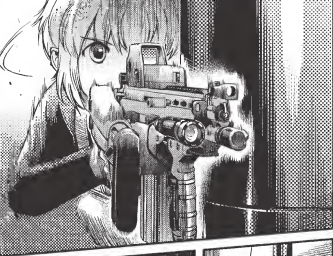


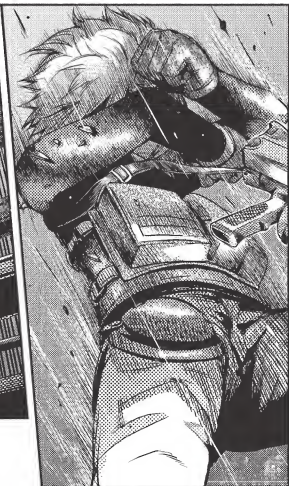
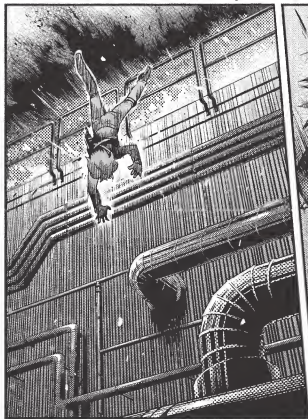
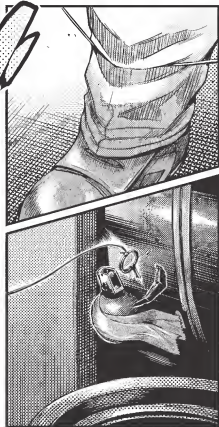
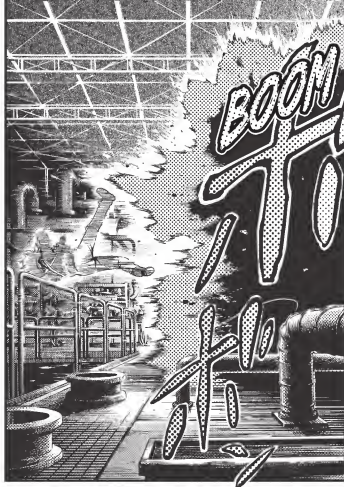
**YOU
WON'T
GET AWAY
FROM
ME THAT
EASILY!**

**YES,
SIR!**

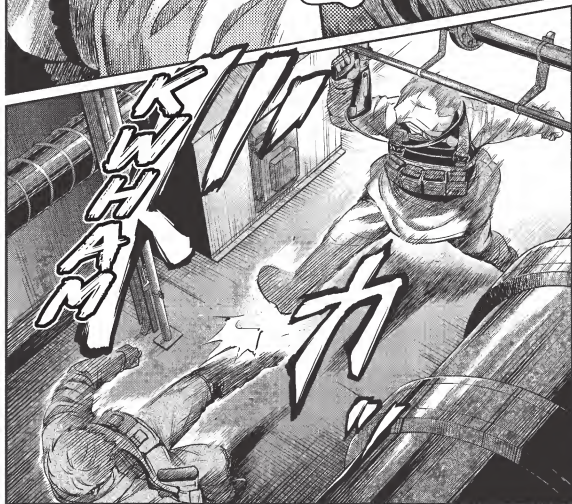
**RICO!
GET IN
FRONT
OF HIM
AND CUT
OFF HIS
ESCAPE!!**



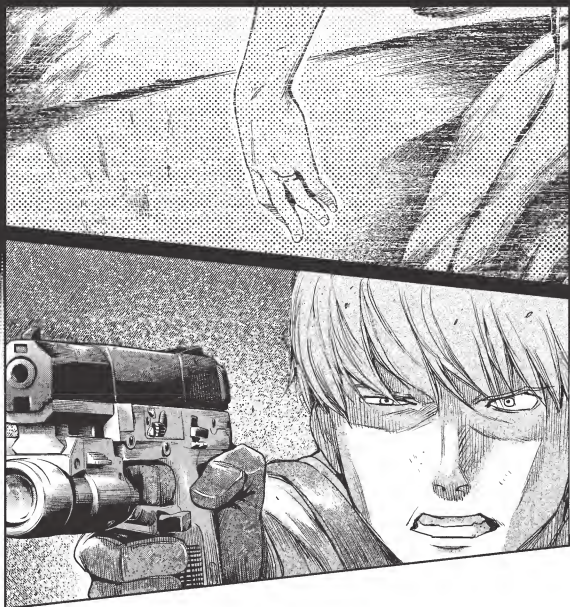




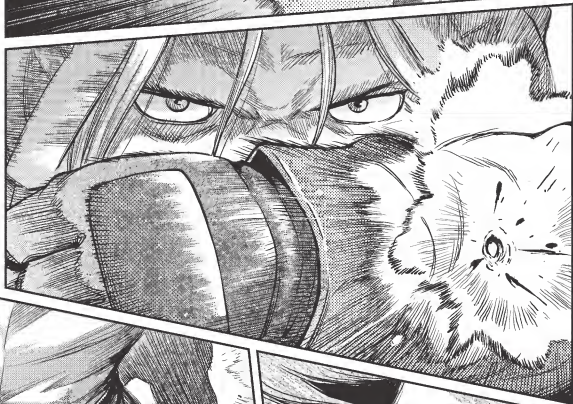
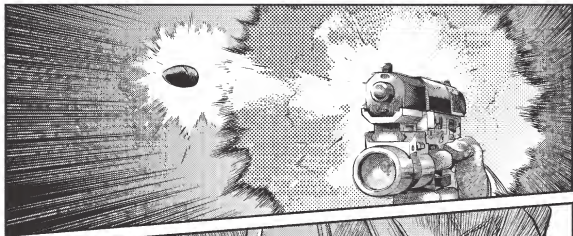




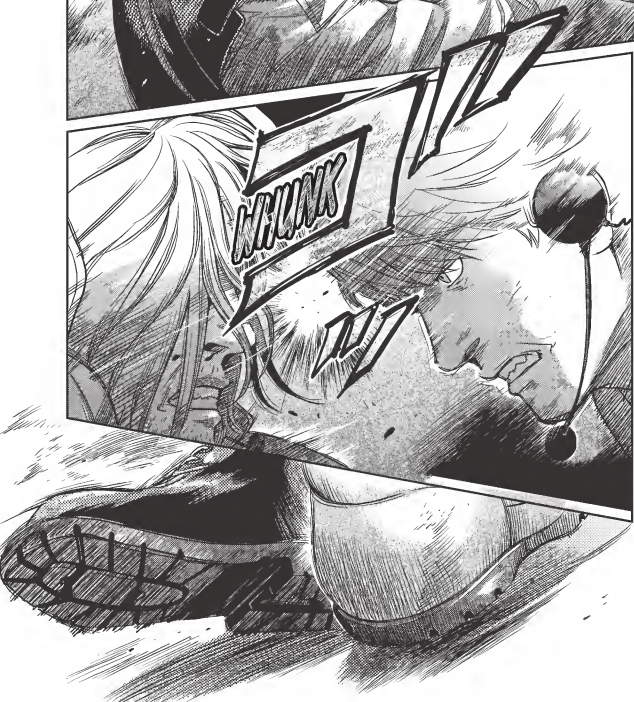




GIACOMO!!



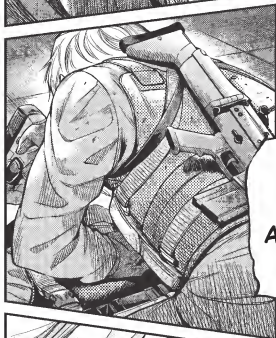
**GIA-
COMO!!**



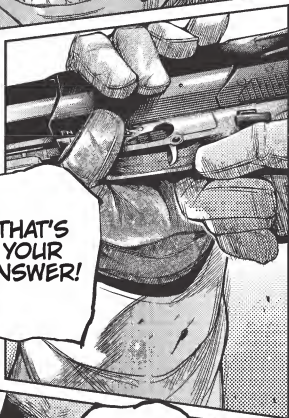




LOOK
AT
YOUR-
SELF!

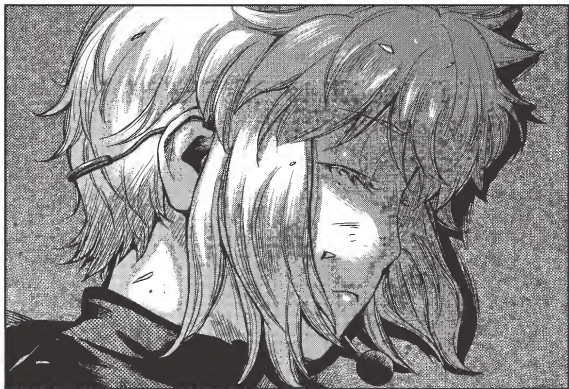
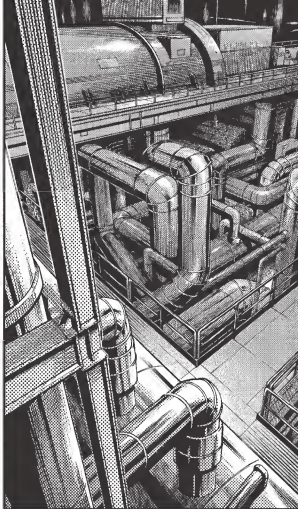
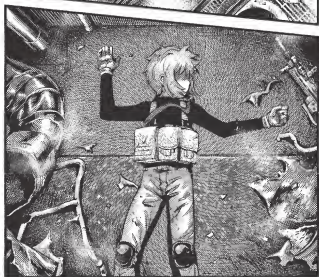
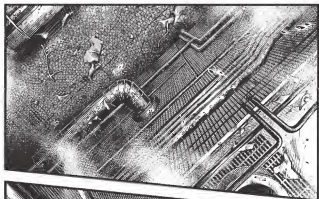


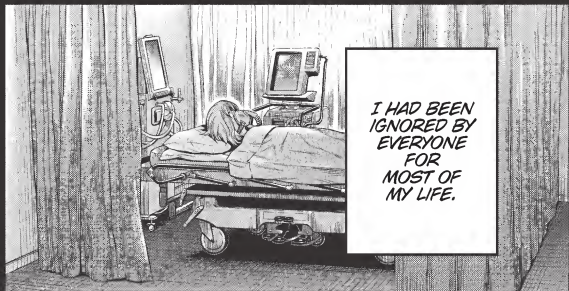
THAT'S
YOUR
ANSWER!

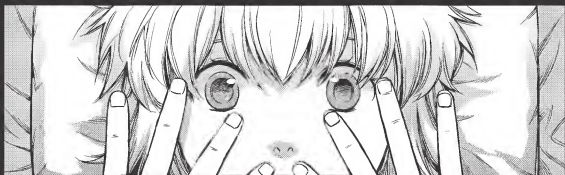
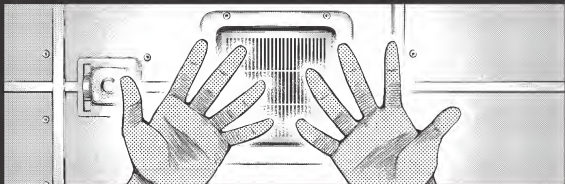


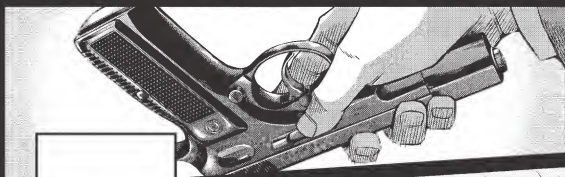
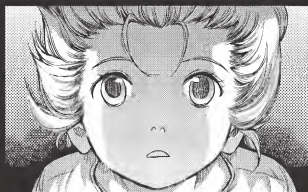
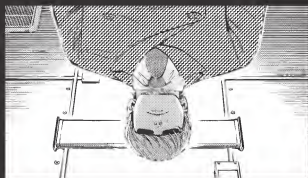
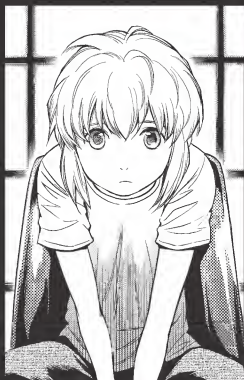
THAT'S
THE TRUE
FACE OF
HUMANITY!!



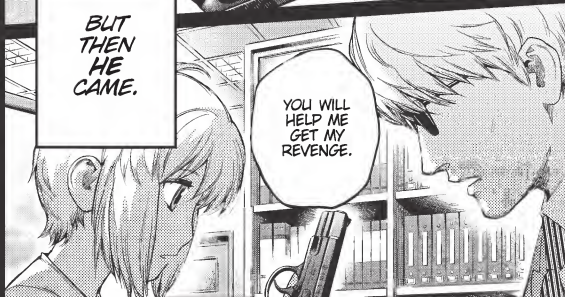




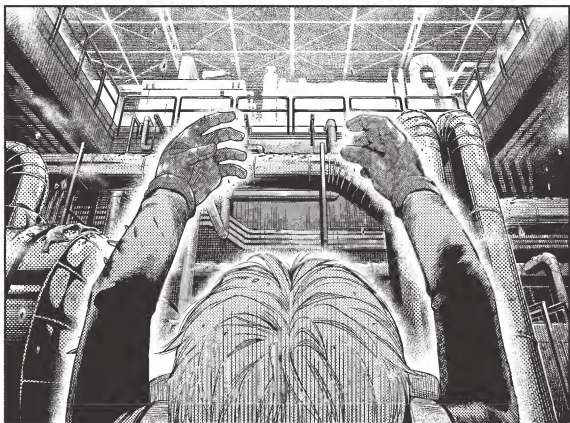
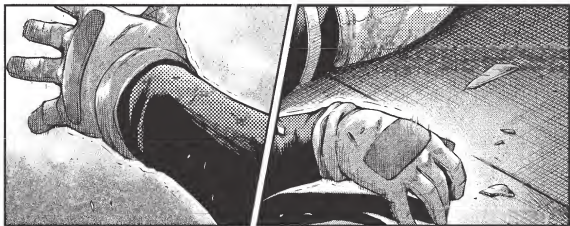


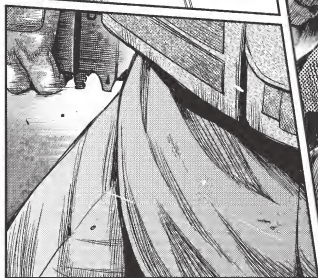


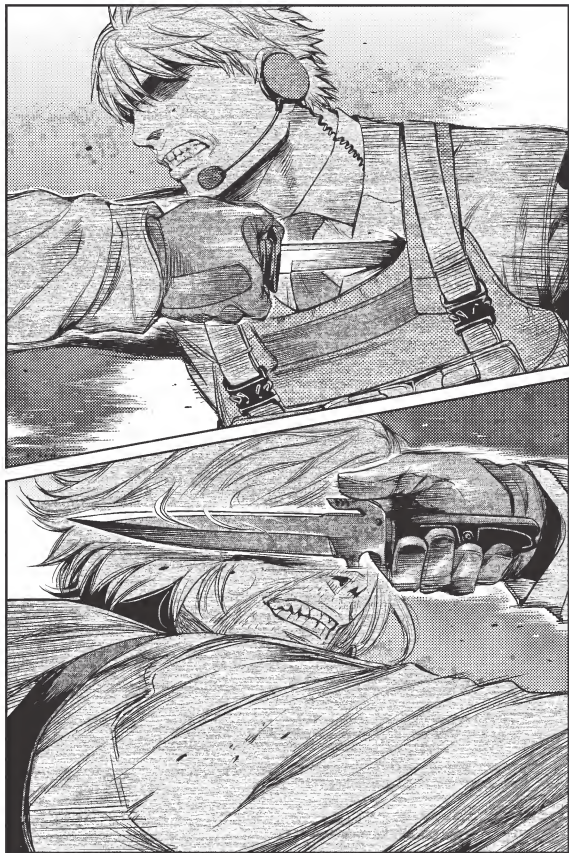
**BUT
THEN
HE
CAME.**

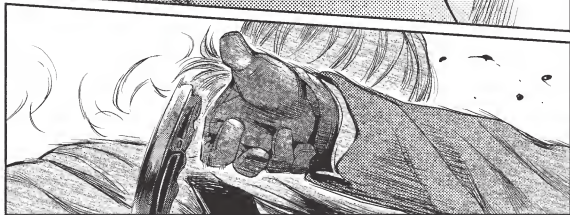
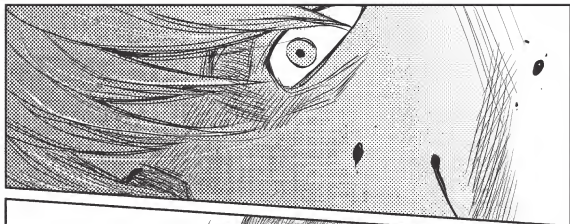


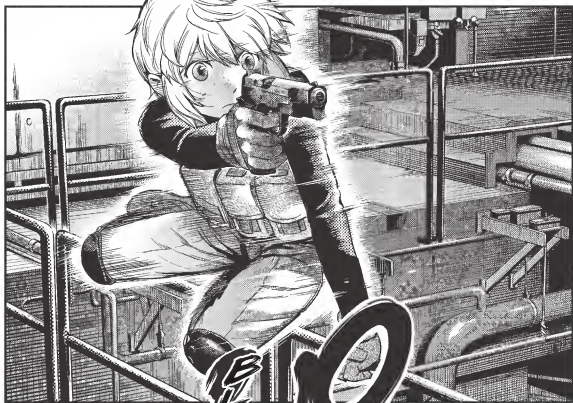
**YOU WILL
HELP ME
GET MY
REVENGE.**



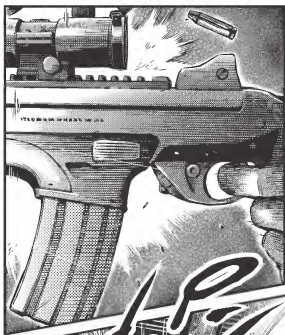






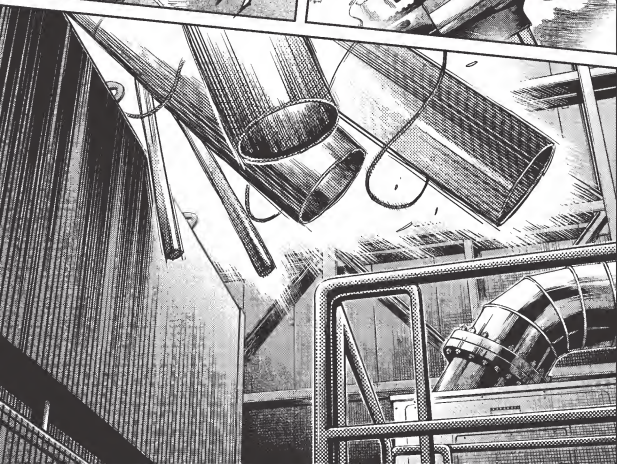




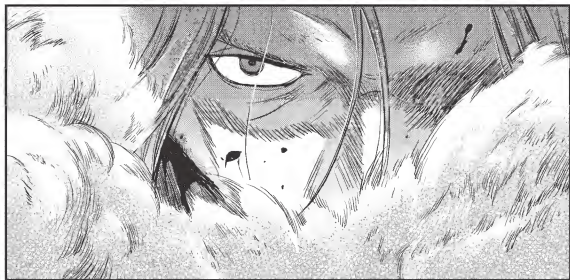
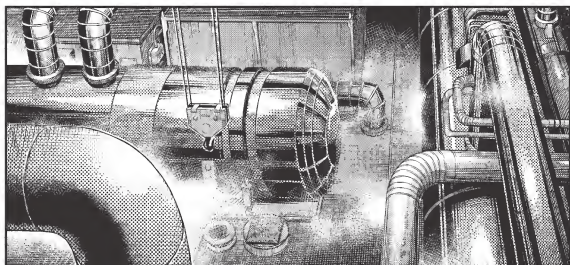
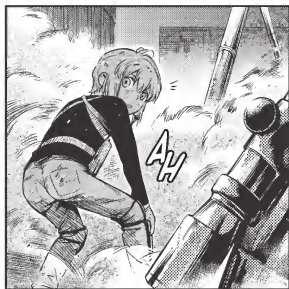


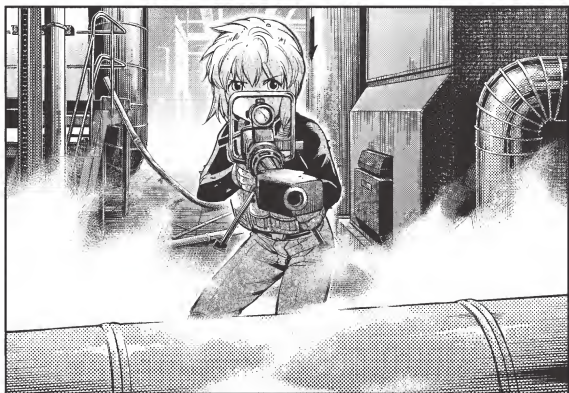
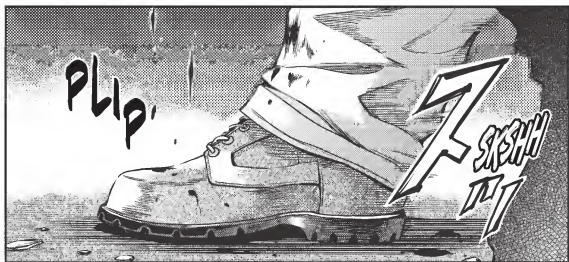
SIGNORE JEAN!!



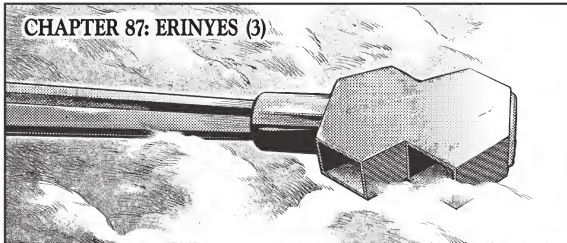


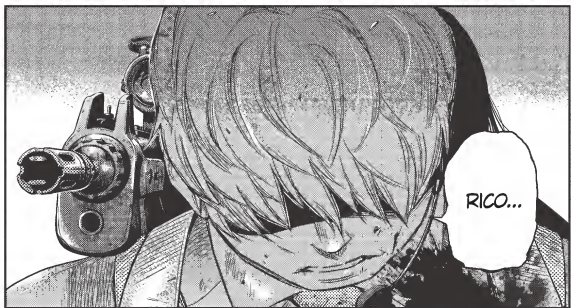
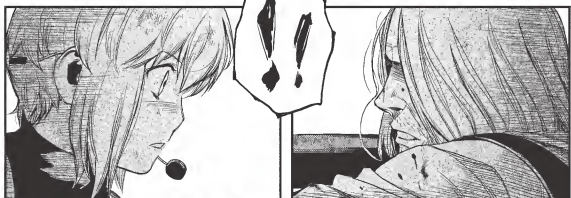
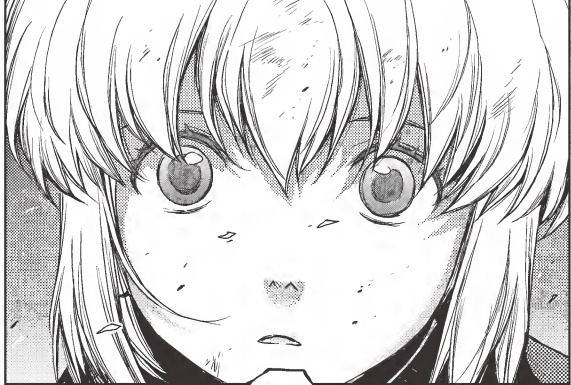




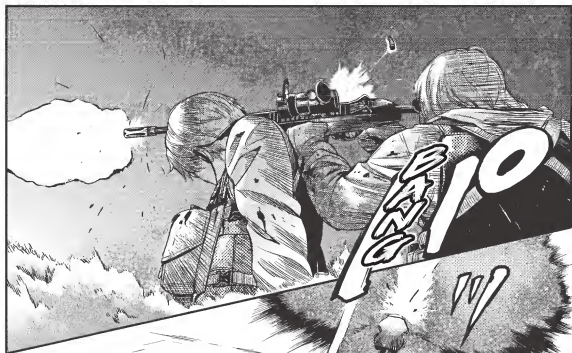


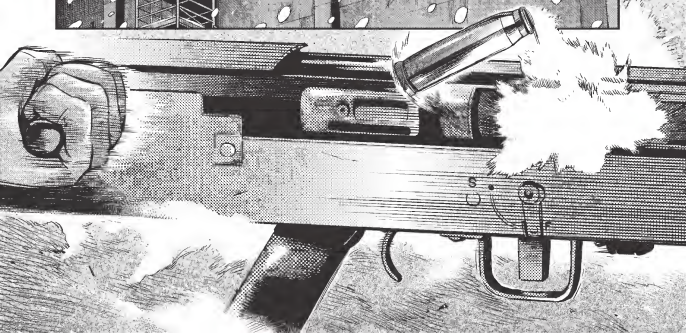
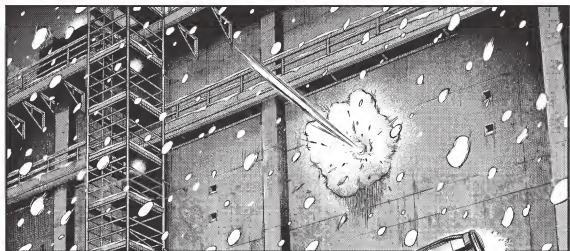
CHAPTER 87: ERINYES (3)

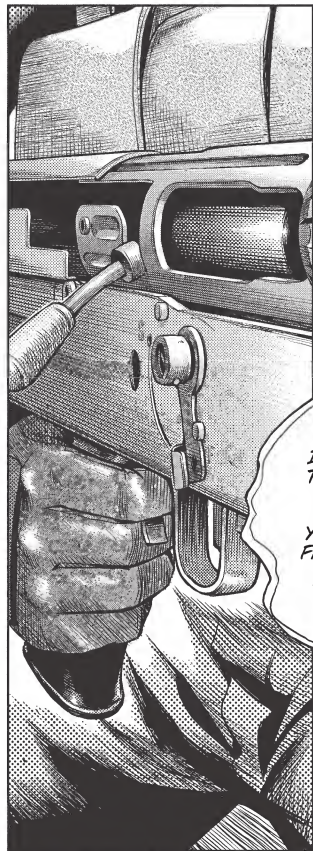




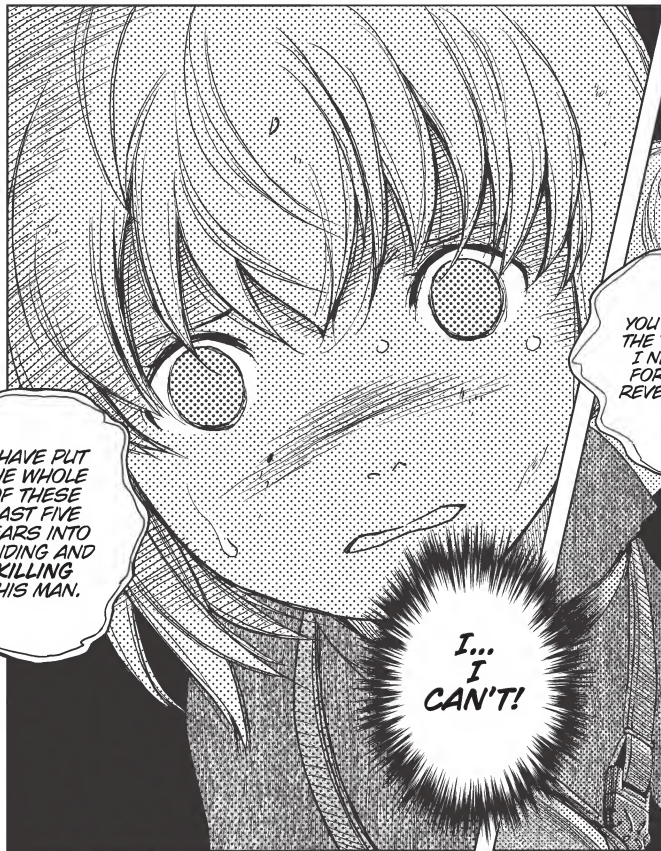








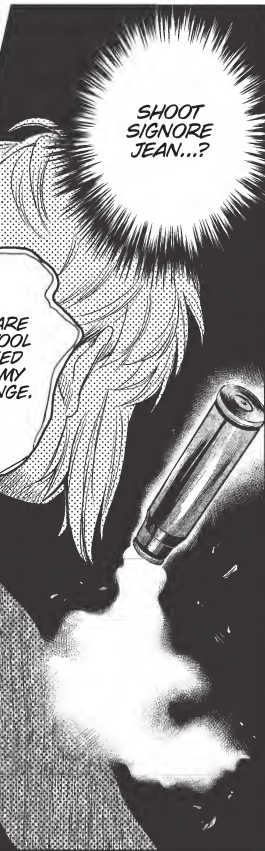
I HAVE PUT
THE WHOLE
OF THESE
LAST FIVE
YEARS INTO
FINDING AND
KILLING
THIS MAN.



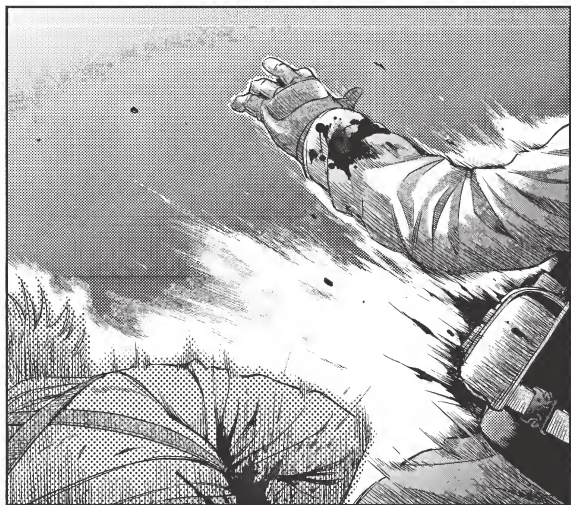
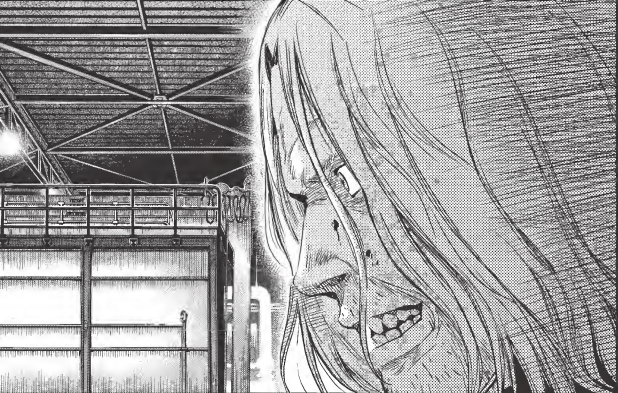
YOU ARE
THE TOOL
I NEED
FOR MY
REVENGE.

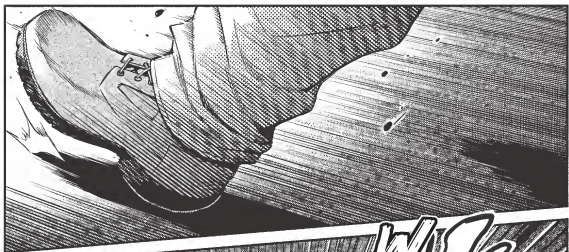
I...
I
CAN'T!

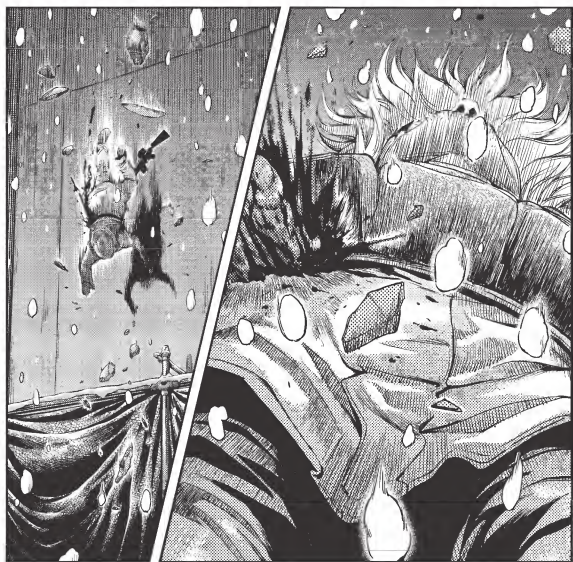
SHOOT
SIGNORE
JEAN...?

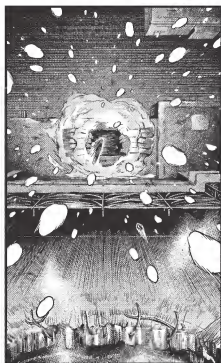


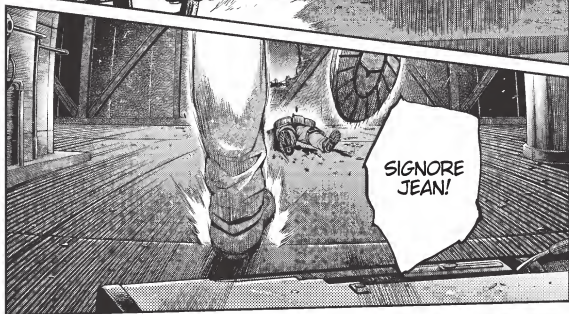
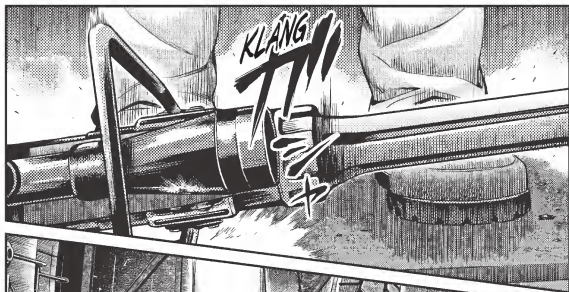


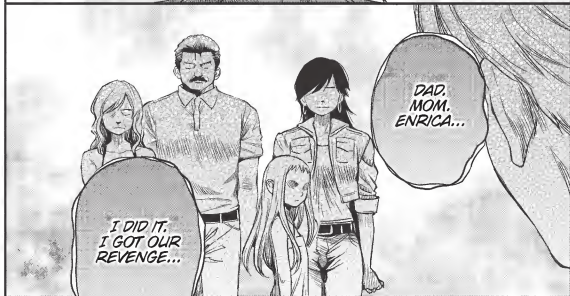


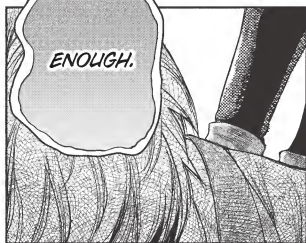


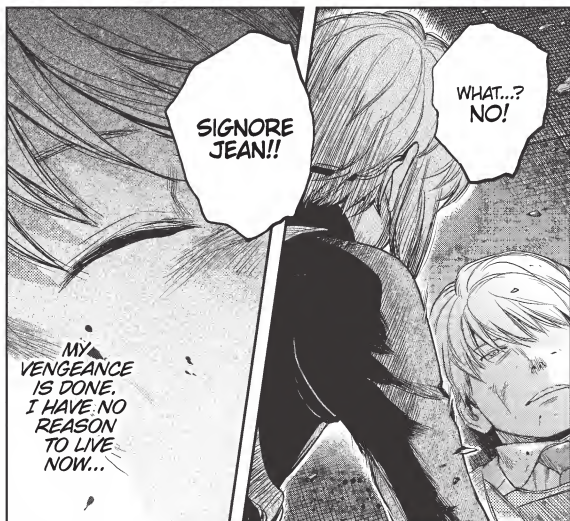


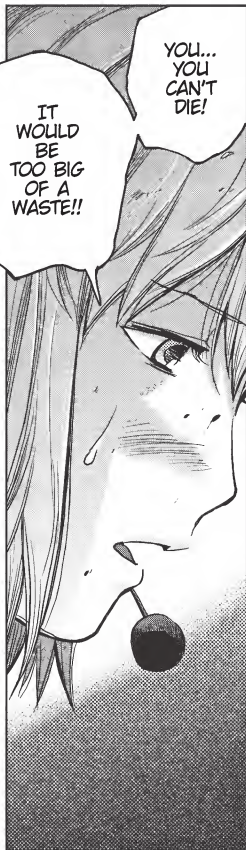








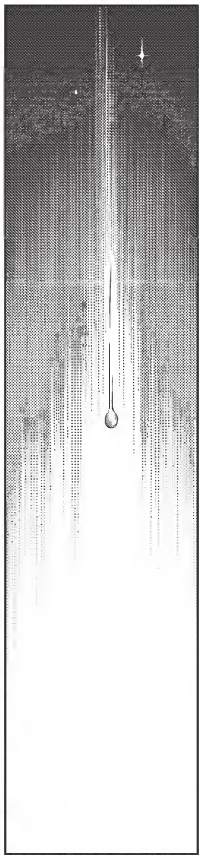




IT
WOULD
BE
TOO BIG
OF A
WASTE!!

YOU...
YOU
CAN'T
DIE!



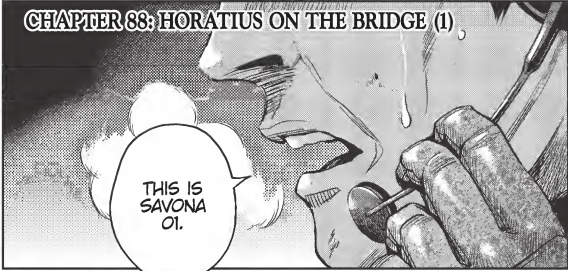




**LIVE
FOR
ME!!!**



CHAPTER 88: HORATIUS ON THE BRIDGE (1)



THIS IS
SAVONA
01.



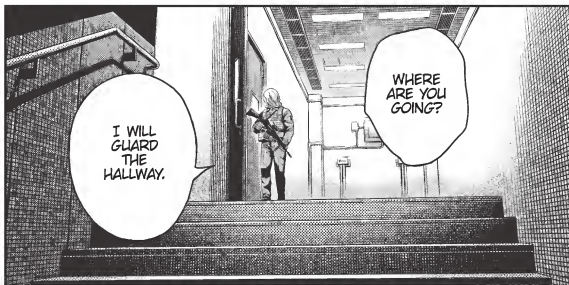
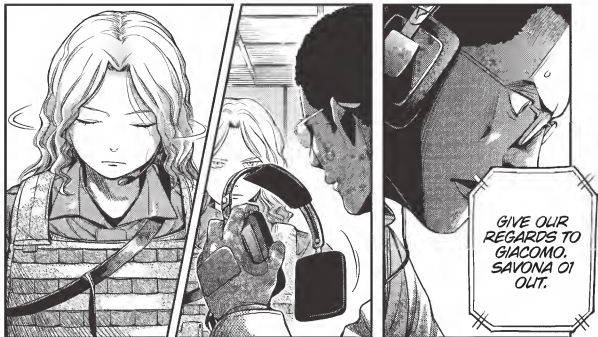
WE HAVE
BEEN
STALLED
AT THE
ENTRANCE
TO THE
TURBINE
WING.

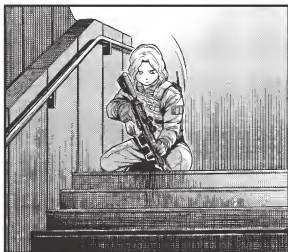


WE WILL
MAKE
ONE LAST
CHARGE
TO SHOW
THEM THE
VALOR OF
MILAN.



WE HAVE
TAKEN HEAVY
CASUALTIES.
THERE ARE
NOT ENOUGH
OF US LEFT TO
CONTINUE ON
AS A UNIT.

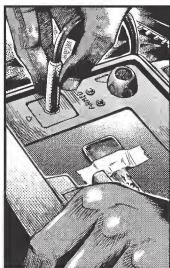


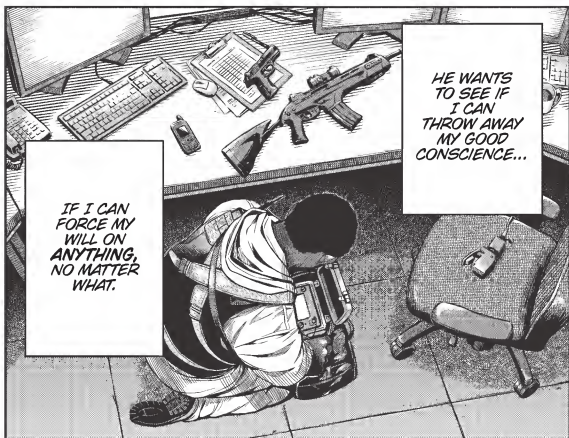
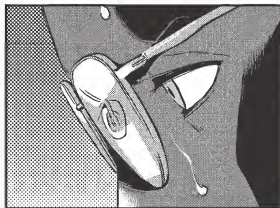
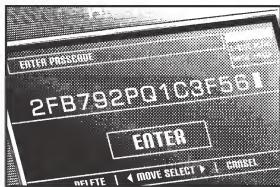


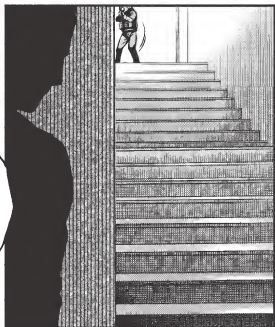
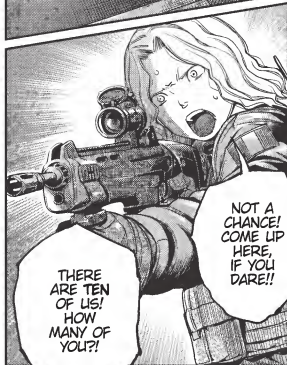
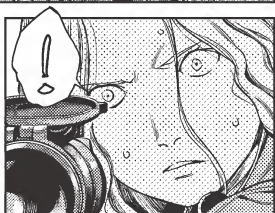
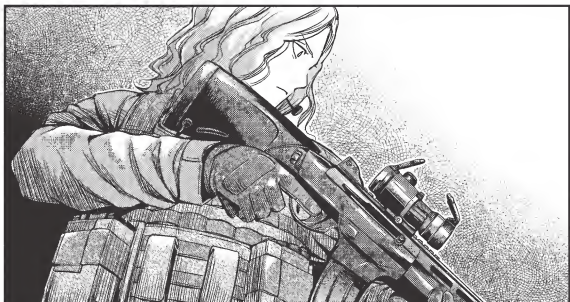
WE HAVE
ONE LAST
ACE LEFT
IN THE
HOLE,
RIGHT?



GET IT
READY.









THE
WEATHER'S
BEEN
TERRIBLE
THE WHOLE
TIME
WE'VE BEEN
HERE...

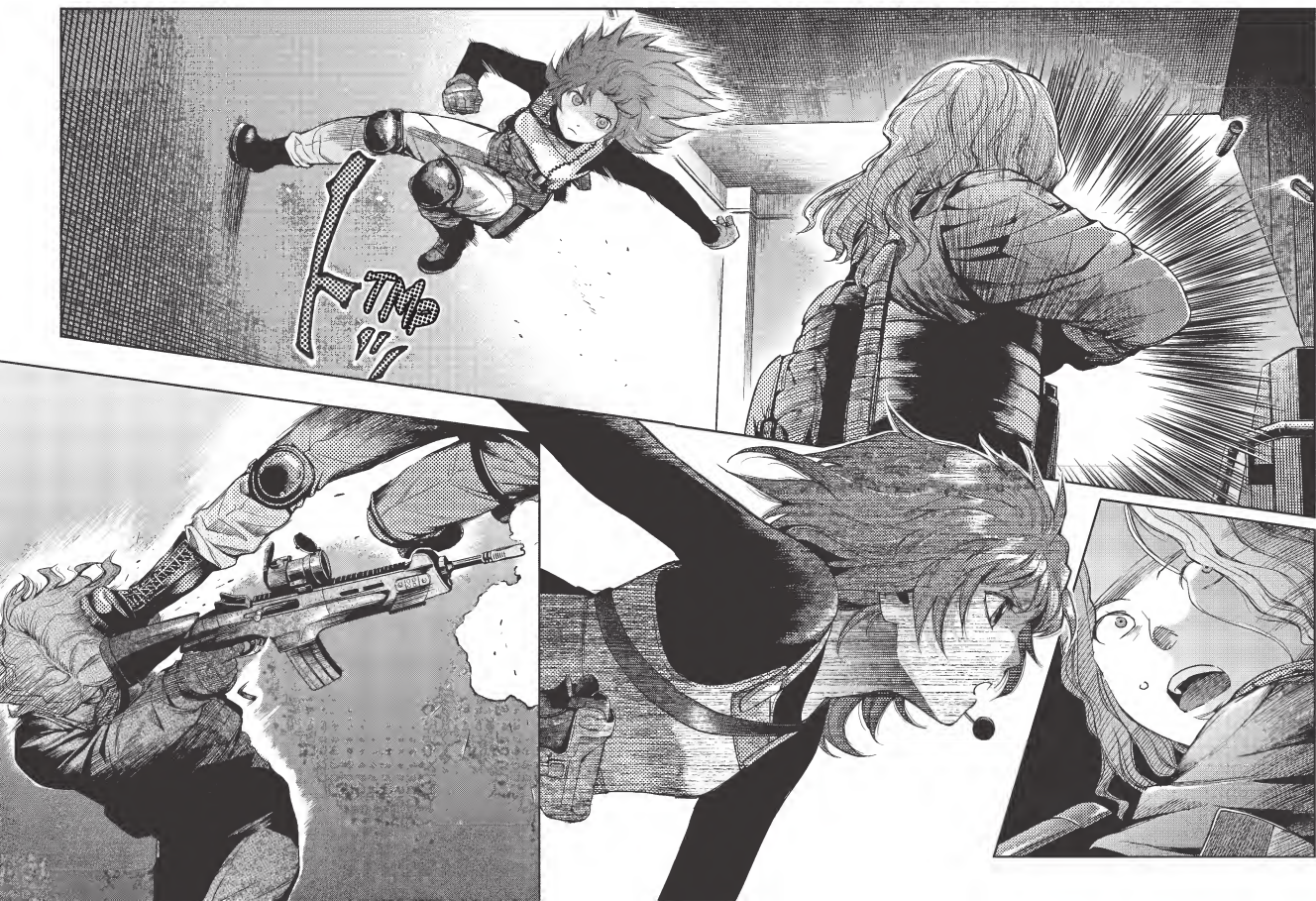


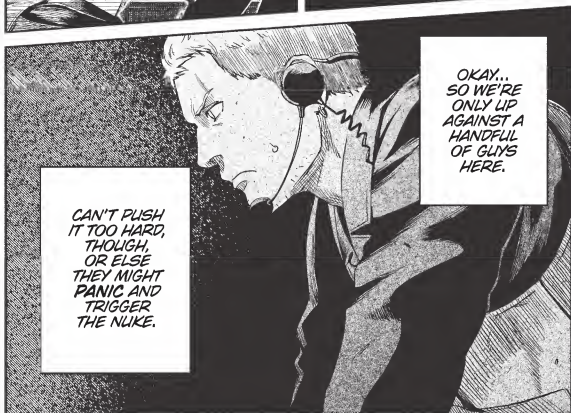
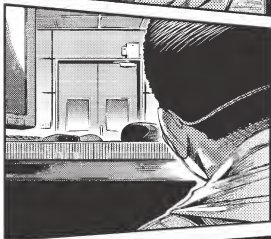
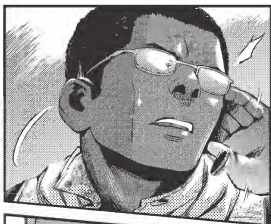
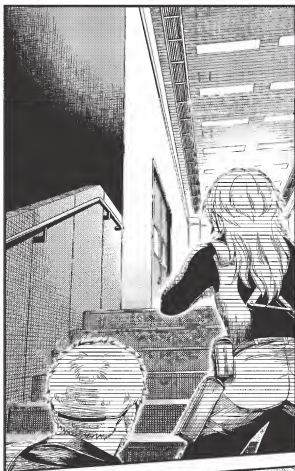
DON'T
BOTHER
BLUFFING.

SO HOW
MANY
MUDDY
FOOTPRINTS
DO YOU
THINK WE
SEE?



SHIT!





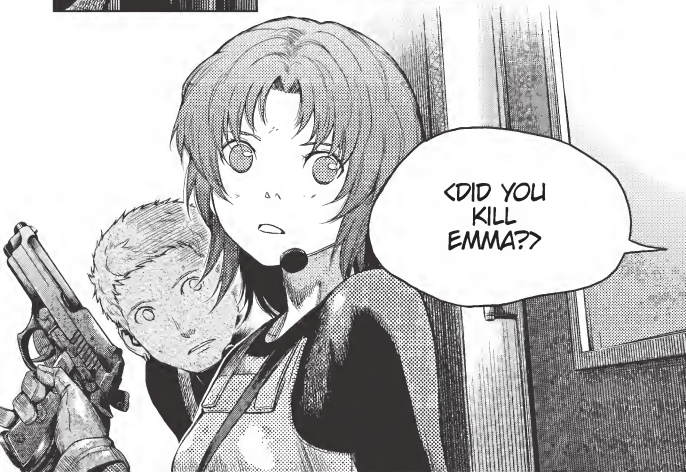
CAN'T PUSH
IT TOO HARD,
THOUGH,
OR ELSE
THEY MIGHT
PANIC AND
TRIGGER
THE NUIKE.

OKAY...
SO WE'RE
ONLY UP
AGAINST A
HANDFUL
OF GUYS
HERE.



DAMMIT,
IF ONLY
I KNEW
WHAT KIND
OF PEOPLE
THESE GUYS
ARE...

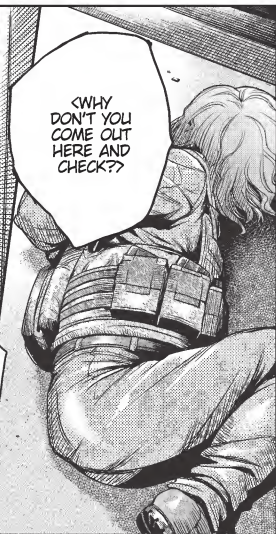
THAT
WOULD
MAKE
THINGS SO
MUCH
EASIER.



<DID YOU
KILL
EMMA?>



**SO
GIACOMO
ISN'T IN
THERE.**

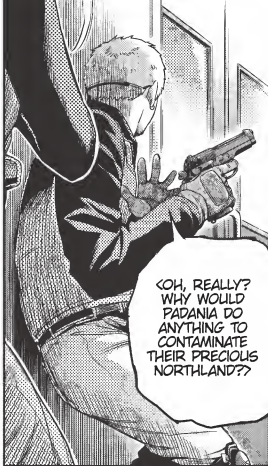




◁WE HAVE
TO DO
SOMETHING!
SOMETHING
BIG!▷

◁THE WORLD
DOESN'T
CARE ABOUT
LITTLE
THINGS!!▷

HE'S
GETTING
INTO IT
NOW...
GOOD.
MEANS
HE'S GOT
SOME
DOUBTS.



◁OH, REALLY?
WHY WOULD
PADANIA DO
ANYTHING TO
CONTAMINATE
THEIR PRECIOUS
NORTHLAND?▷



THERE IS
NO EASIER
OPPONENT
THAN A
GUY WHO
WANTS
TO TALK.

LISTEN,
SANDRO.



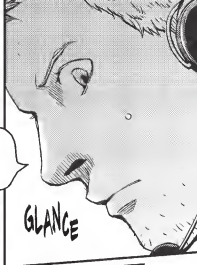
◁WOW,
WAY TO
CHEAPEN
YOUR
"GRAND
CAUSE"!▷

NOW ALL
I'VE
GOTTA DO
IS TALK
HIM INTO
DOING
WHAT I
WANT.



<OH,
SO YOU
WANNA
KNOW,
EH?>

<LET ME
PUT IT TO
YOU THIS
WAY...>

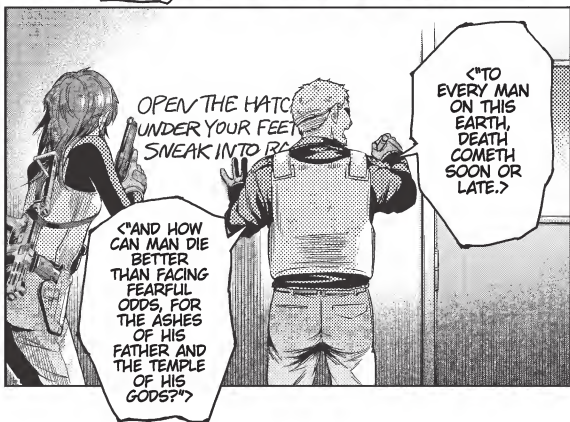


GLANCE



<AT LEAST
I HAVE ONE!
WHAT
DO YOU
HAVE??>

<WHAT
CAUSE
SENDS YOU
TO THIS
FIELD OF
DEATH??>



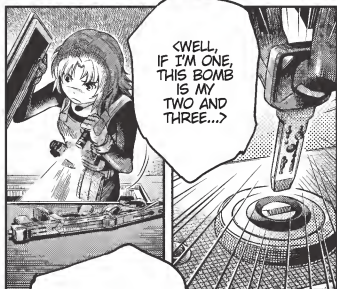
OPEN THE HATCH
UNDER YOUR FEET
SNEAK INTO RA

<"AND HOW
CAN MAN DIE
BETTER
THAN FACING
FEARFUL
ODDS, FOR
THE ASHES
OF HIS
FATHER AND
THE TEMPLE
OF HIS
GODS?">

<"TO
EVERY MAN
ON THIS
EARTH,
DEATH
COMETH
SOON OR
LATE.">



<SO YOU
THINK
YOURSELF
ROME'S
ONE-EYED
HERO ON
THE BRIDGE,
EH??>



<WELL,
IF I'M ONE,
THIS BOMB
IS MY
TWO AND
THREE...>



<"AND IN YON
STRAIGHT
PATH, A
THOUSAND
MAY BE
STOPPED BY
THREE.">





<MY
REASONS
FOR
STOPPING
YOU ARE
WAY MORE
PERSONAL
THAN THAT!>

<HOLD
ON!>



...



<SHE GOT
IT FROM
RADIATION
POISONING.>

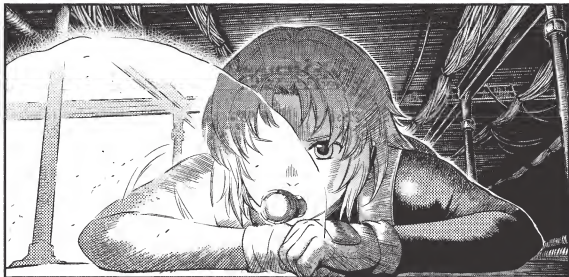


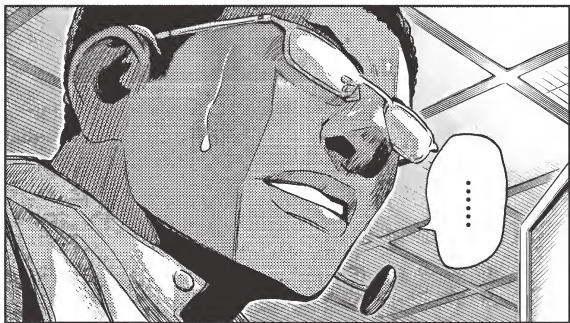
<SOMEONE
VERY
IMPORTANT
TO ME,
A WOMAN...
SHE HAD
CANCER.>



<I DON'T
WANT
ANYONE ELSE
TO HAVE
TO GO
THROUGH
WHAT
I DID!>

<SHE DIED
NOT THAT
LONG
AGO...>





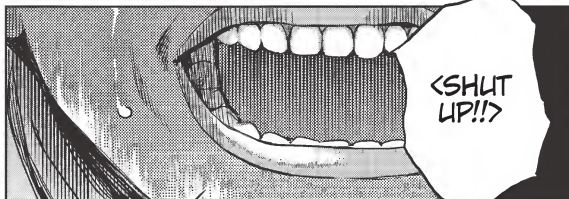


<YOU
KNOW
YOU
AREN'T!>

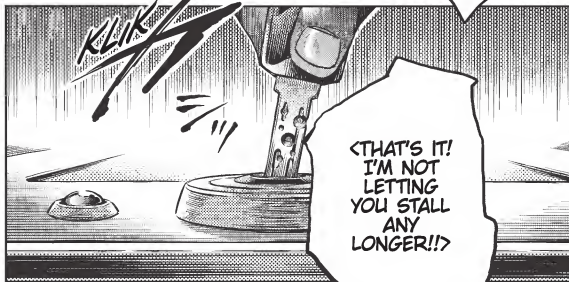


<YOU
AREN'T
NUTS,
LIKE
GIACOMO
IS.>

<LISTEN!
YOU AREN'T
THE KIND OF
GUY TO DO
SOMETHING
THIS
CRAZY.>



<SHUT
UP!!>



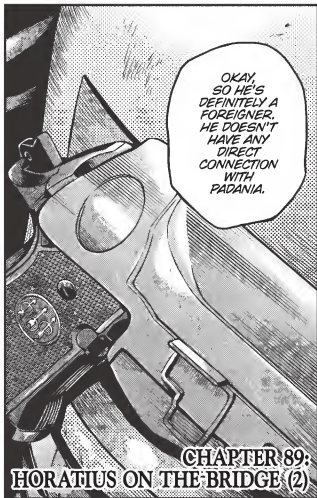
<THAT'S IT!
I'M NOT
LETTING
YOU STALL
ANY
LONGER!!>





HE'S GOT A
NON-NATIVE
ACCENT TO
HIS ENGLISH,
WITH THE KIND
OF LILT THAT
COMES FROM
PEOPLE
WHOSE BIRTH
LANGUAGE IS
ARABIC.

<FIRST,
YOU'RE
FROM THE
MIDDLE
EAST...>



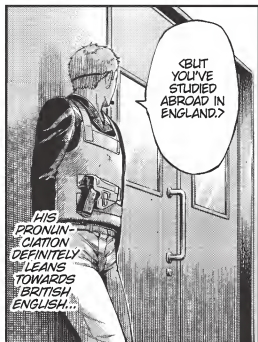
OKAY,
SO HE'S
DEFINITELY A
FOREIGNER.
HE DOESN'T
HAVE ANY
DIRECT
CONNECTION
WITH
PADANIA.

CHAPTER 89: HORATIUS ON THE BRIDGE (2)



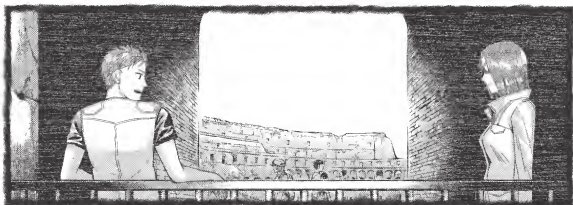
AND HE'S
EDUCATED
ENOUGH
TO QUOTE
THOMAS
MACAULAY'S
"LAYS OF
ANCIENT
ROME"
BACK AT
ME.

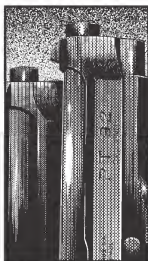
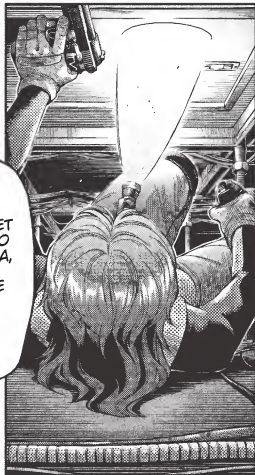
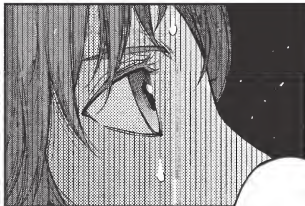
CAT A
PRESTIGIOUS
UNIVERSITY,
EVEN.
GRADUATED
WITH
HONORS,
I BET.>



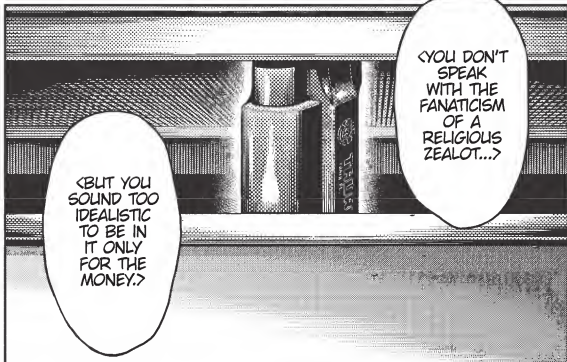
<BUT
YOU'VE
STUDIED
ABROAD IN
ENGLAND.>

HIS
PRONUN-
CIATION
DEFINITELY
"LEANS
TOWARDS
BRITISH
ENGLISH..."





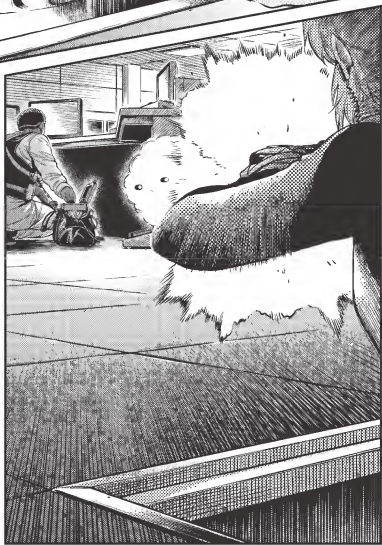
YOU MET
GIACOMO
IN AFRICA,
FOUR
OR FIVE
YEARS
AGO.?

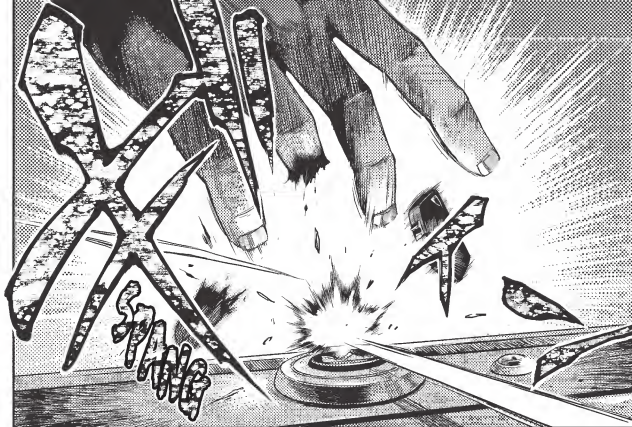


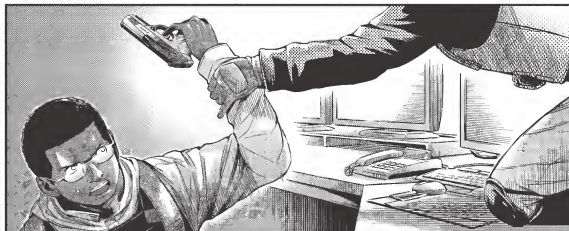
CBUT YOU
SOUND TOO
IDEALISTIC
TO BE IN
IT ONLY
FOR THE
MONEY.?

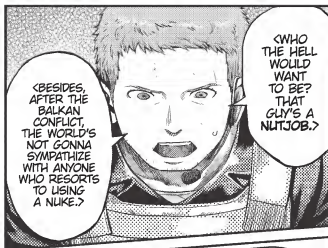
YOU DON'T
SPEAK
WITH THE
FANATICISM
OF A
RELIGIOUS
ZEALOT...?













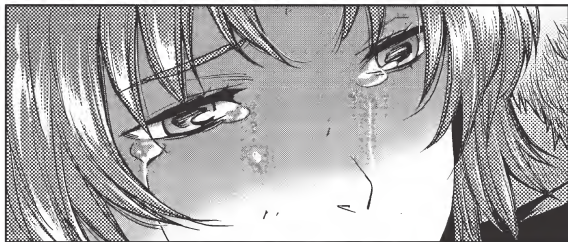
THANK
YOU...

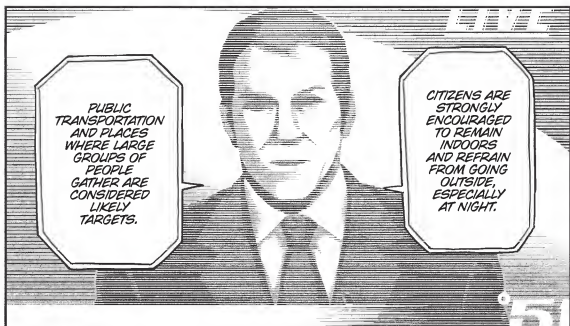
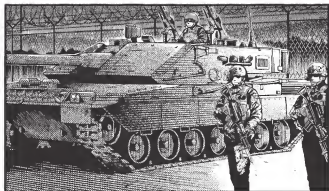
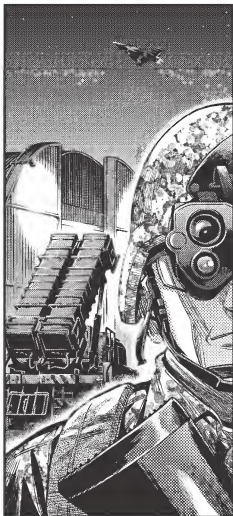


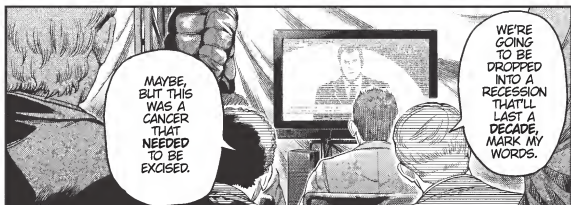
YOU
WERE
RIGHT.
THEY
REALLY
DID
HAVE A
NUKE.

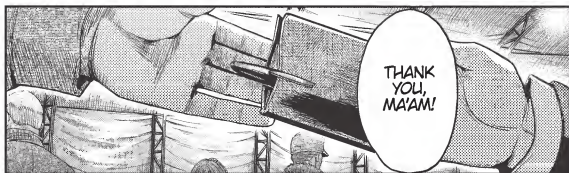


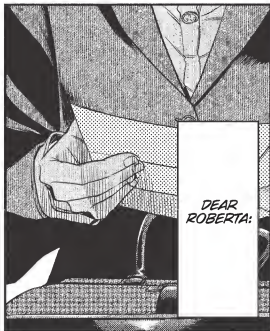
MAYBE...
MAYBE THIS
WAS ENOUGH
TO ATONE
FOR EVEN A
LITTLE BIT
OF WHAT
I'VE DONE.



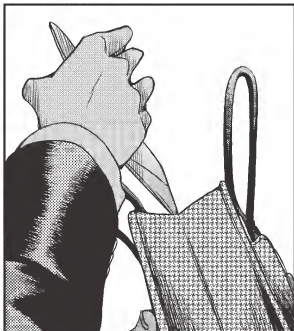






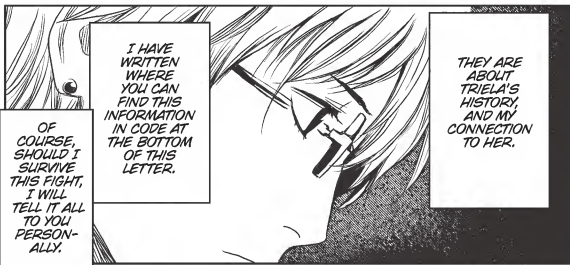


DEAR
ROBERTA:



THINGS
YOU HAVE
DONE ME
THE FAVOR
OF NOT
ASKING.

WE ARE
FACING A
GREAT
BATTLE,
AND THERE
ARE THINGS
I WOULD
HAVE YOU
KNOW
BEFORE IT
BEGINS.



OF
COURSE,
SHOULD I
SURVIVE
THIS FIGHT,
I WILL
TELL IT ALL
TO YOU
PERSON-
ALLY.

I HAVE
WRITTEN
WHERE
YOU CAN
FIND THIS
INFORMATION
IN CODE AT
THE BOTTOM
OF THIS
LETTER.

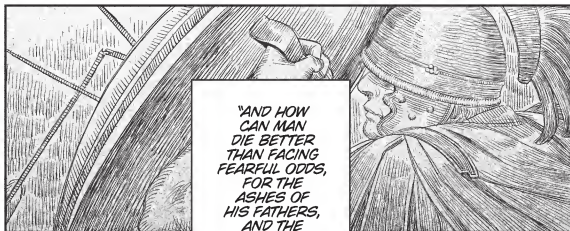
THEY ARE
ABOUT
TRIELA'S
HISTORY,
AND MY
CONNECTION
TO HER.



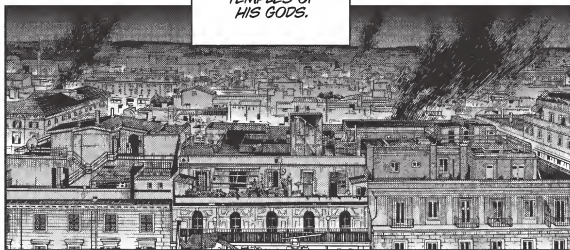
"THEN OUT
SPAKE
BRAVE
HORATIUS,
THE
CAPTAIN
OF THE
GATE.

"TO EVERY
MAN
UPON THIS
EARTH,
DEATH
COMETH
SOON OR
LATE.

IN THE
NINETEENTH
CENTURY,
THOMAS B.
MACAULAY
WROTE A
SERIES OF
POEMS.
ONE,
CALLED
"HORATIUS,"
I FIND PAR-
TICULARLY
COMPEL-
LING.

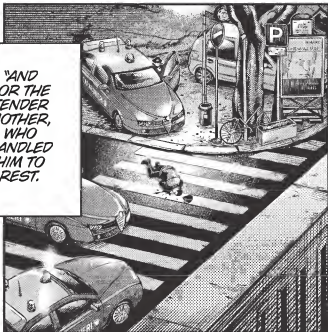


"AND HOW
CAN MAN
DIE BETTER
THAN FACING
FEARFUL ODDS,
FOR THE
ASHES OF
HIS FATHERS,
AND THE
TEMPLES OF
HIS GODS.



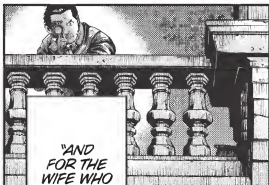


"AND
FOR THE
TENDER
MOTHER,
WHO
DANDLED
HIM TO
REST.

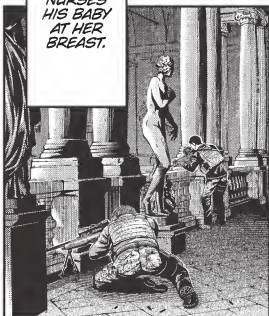


"AND
FOR THE
HOLY
MAIDENS
WHO FEED
THE
ETERNAL
FLAME.

"TO SAVE
THEM FROM
FALSE
SEXTUS
THAT
WROUGHT
THE
DEED OF
SHAME?

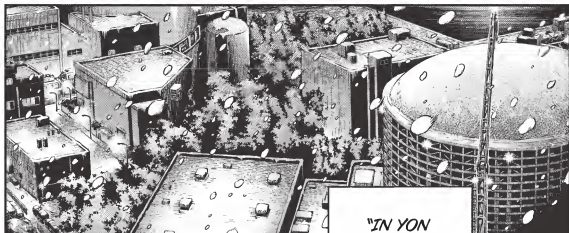


"AND
FOR THE
WIFE WHO
NURSES
HIS BABY
AT HER
BREAST.



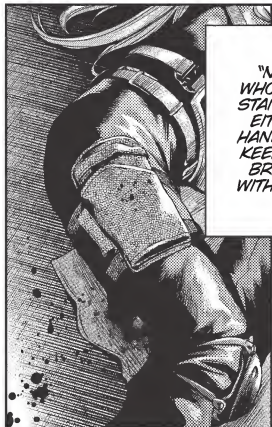
"I,
WITH TWO
MORE TO
HELP ME,
WILL HOLD
THE FOE
IN PLAY.

"HAIL
DOWN THE
BRIDGE,
SIR
CONSUL,
WITH ALL
THE SPEED
YE MAY.

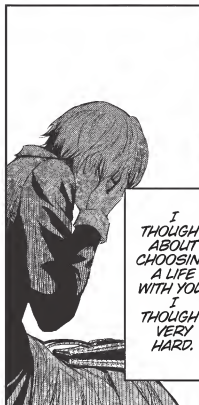


"IN YON
STRAIT
PATH A
THOUSAND
MAY
WELL BE
STOPPED
BY
THREE.

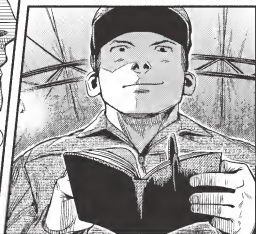




"NOW
WHO WILL
STAND ON
EITHER
HAND AND
KEEP THE
BRIDGE
WITH ME?"



I
THOUGHT
ABOUT
CHOOSING
A LIFE
WITH YOU.
I
THOUGHT
VERY
HARD.





BUT,
IN THE
END,
THIS IS
THE MAN
I AM.

CHAPTER 90: ERINYES (4)

SOCIAL WELFARE
AGENCY HQ
COMMAND ROOM

ALL UNIT
COMMANDERS,
COME IN!

ALL UNIT
COMMANDERS,
THIS IS HQ.

BUT WE
DID
MANAGE
TO
SECURE
THE
NUCLEAR
DEVICE.

THIS IS
SQUAD 2.
PRELIMINARY
REPORTS
SAY JEAN'S
UNIT WAS
WIPE OUT...

THIS IS
SQUAD 1,
OUR
COMMANDER
IS MIA!

WELL,
IT
SEEMS...

THIS
PARTICULAR
BATTLE IS
DRAWING
TO A
CLOSE.

HOWEVER,
NO ONE CAN
CONFIRM
GIACOMO'S
LOCATION
OR STATUS.



ACCORDING
TO OUR LAST
COMMUNICATION,
THE GOVERNMENT
DOES NOT HAVE
THE LEEWAY TO
SEND US ANY
REINFORCE-
MENTS...

I HAVE
BEEN
UNABLE TO
REACH THE
PRIME
MINISTER
HIMSELF.



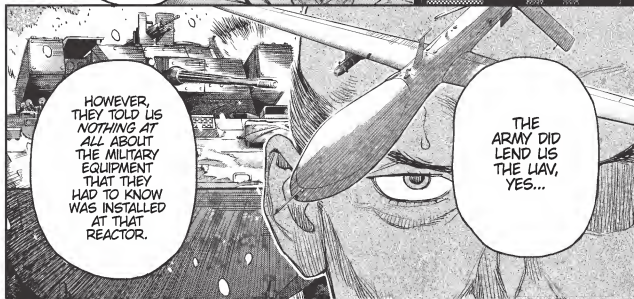
ARE THERE
REINFORCE-
MENTS
ON THE
WAY?

FERRO,
WHAT OF THE
BACKUP WE
REQUESTED
FROM THE
GOVERNMENT?



MONICA,
I THINK
WE'RE
IN FOR
SOME BIG
TROUBLE.

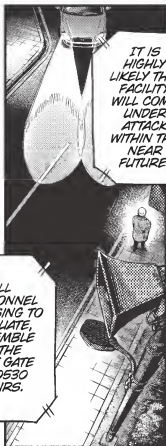
I
SEE...



HOWEVER,
THEY TOLD US
NOTHING AT
ALL ABOUT
THE MILITARY
EQUIPMENT
THAT THEY
HAD TO KNOW
WAS INSTALLED
AT THAT
REACTOR.

THE
ARMY DID
LEND US
THE UAV,
YES...





IT IS
HIGHLY
LIKELY THIS
FACILITY
WILL COME
UNDER
ATTACK
WITHIN THE
NEAR
FUTURE.

ALL
PERSONNEL
CHOOSING TO
EVACUATE,
ASSEMBLE
AT THE
EAST GATE
BY 0530
HOURS.



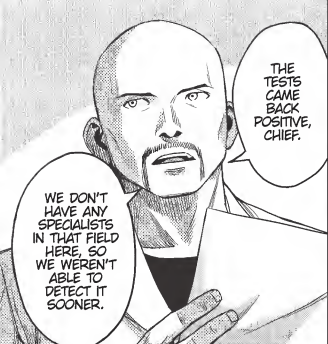
ATTENTION
ALL STAFF.
THIS IS THE
DIRECTOR.



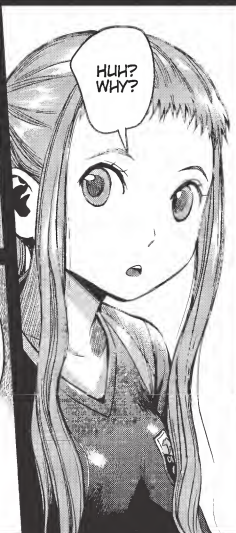
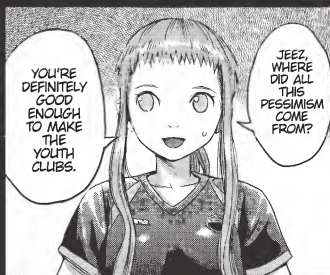
UM...
DOCTOR?
WHAT
SHOULD
WE DO?



ALL
PERSONNEL
CHOOSING
TO REMAIN,
CONTINUE
WORKING IN
ACCORDANCE
WITH THE
PREVIOUSLY
DISTRIBUTED
PLAN.



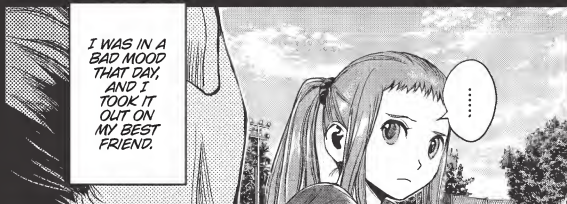






LOOKING
AT YOU
MAKES ME
WONDER IF
I REALLY
HAVE ANY
TALENT
AT ALL.

YEAH,
BUT YOU
MADE THE
REGIONAL
TEAM
WITHOUT
EVEN
HALF-TRYING.



I WAS IN A
BAD MOOD
THAT DAY,
AND I
TOOK IT
OUT ON
MY BEST
FRIEND.

.....

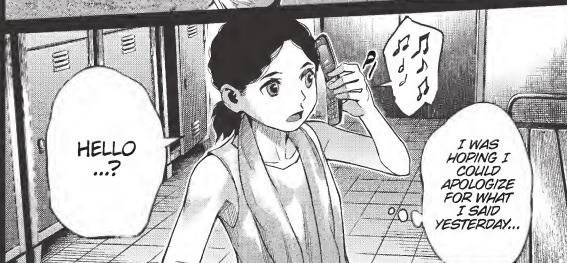


WHY DON'T
YOU QUIT
FOOTBALL,
TOO?

THE
CROCE
INCIDENT
WOULD
HAPPEN
THE
VERY
NEXT
DAY.



Y'KNOW...
YOU'RE
GONNA
JOIN THE
CARABINIERI
ONCE YOU
GRADUATE,
RIGHT?





WE JUST
SAW IT ON
THE NEWS.
SOMETHING
TERRIBLE
HAS
HAPPENED!

OH
NO...



PLEASE,
NO...!



JULIA APREA

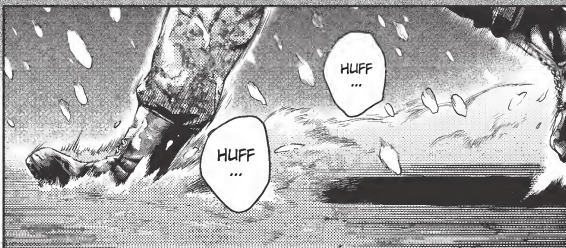
JULIA,
COME
HOME
RIGHT
NOW!
HURRY!!



HUFF
...

HUFF
...

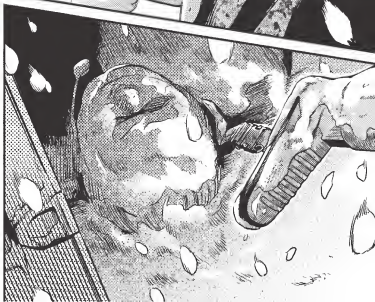
HUFF
...



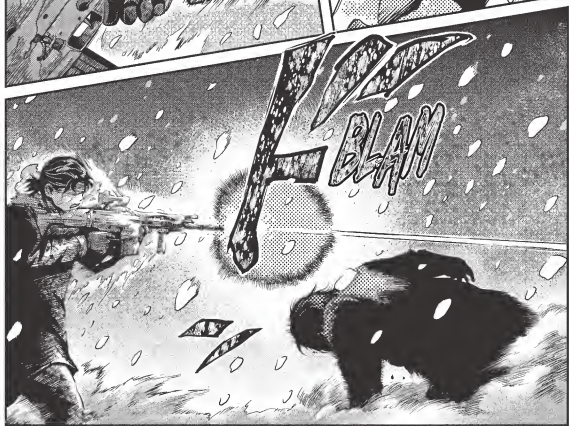
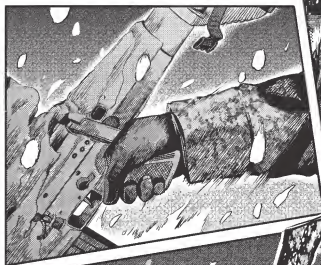
HUFF
...

HUFF
...





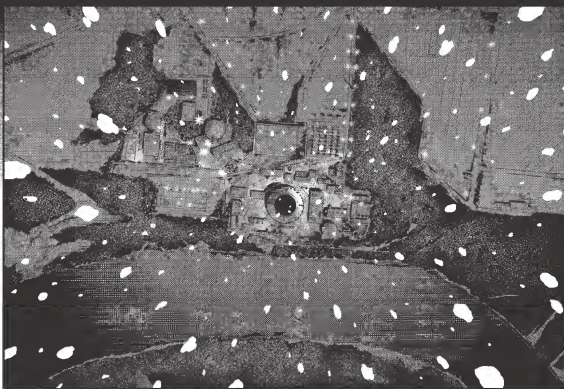


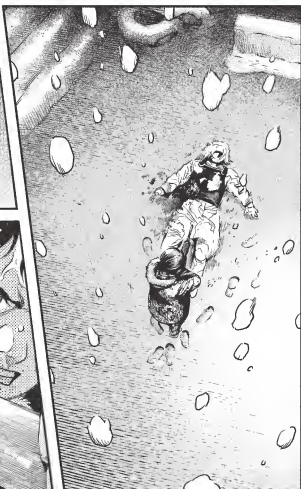
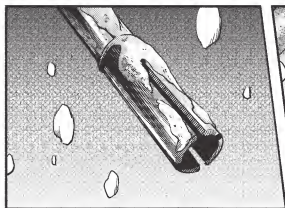




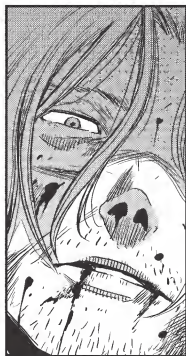




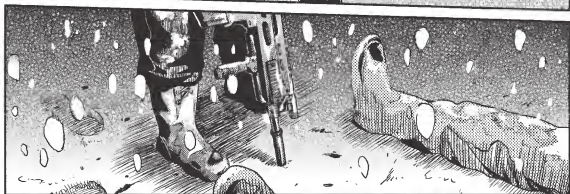
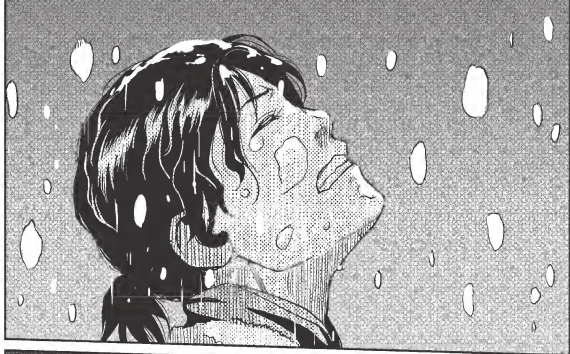




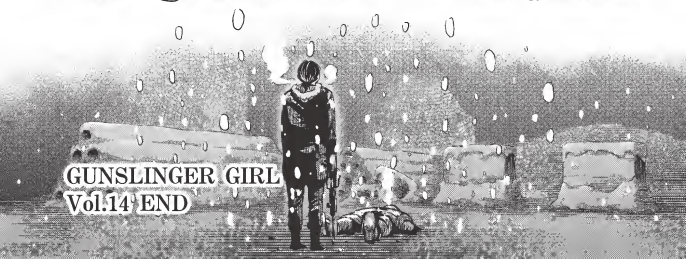
DO
IT.







GUNSLINGER GIRL
Vol.14 END



GUNSLINGERGIRL.



The Locations Of “GUNSLINGER GIRL”

TRINO #83,84,85,86,87,88,89,90

VICENZA #89

ROMA #90

The World of Gunslinger Girl

SMOKING IN ITALY

With the push against smoking increasing in the US and Canada, I am sure many smokers are feeling a little left out in the cold. In *Gunslinger Girl*, Sandro, Jean and several other characters smoke. Let's take a look at tobacco and smoking in Italy.

■ Cigarette Shops in Italy

In Italy, "tabacchi"—tobacco stores—are everywhere. In a tabacchi, you can find not only cigarette products, but also snacks, magazines, and other assorted goods. They are a lot like a convenience store or mini-mart. Subway and bus tickets are also available there, so travelers will have plenty of opportunities to visit one.

Tabacchi are often found right next to bars. Unlike North American bars, Italian bars mainly serve coffee. These shops are open late into the night, and are a familiar fixture in daily Italian life.

■ Non-Smoking Regulations

According to a 2002 survey, about 25% of Italian adults smoked (compared to 33% for Japanese adults). In 2005, new non-smoking regulations were passed, bringing a change to smoking habits in Italy. The aims of the regulations are as follows:

● Aim

To protect non-smokers from the health risks of second-hand smoke.

● Smoking Areas

Outdoors, inside private homes, or designated smoking areas. Anywhere else is strictly prohibited.

● Fines

- 1) Smoking in a non-smoking area: 28 - 275 Euros.
- 2) Business owners not enforcing non-smoking regulations: 220 - 2,200 Euros.
- 3) Designated smoking areas not maintained to code: 330 - 3,300 Euros.

Citizens are free to report violations to the police, and if it can be proven that children or pregnant women were present, the fines will immediately be doubled. It is said that, thanks to these strict regulations, half a million Italians quit smoking the day they were passed. As a result, the percentage of adult smokers in Italy dropped to 22% for several years.



↑ Jose once quit smoking for Henrietta's sake, but now he has started again. What prompted this change of heart?



However, a survey done in '09 showed that the percentage had climbed back up to 25%. The suspected cause is the sudden world-wide economic slowdown. New stresses and general uncertainty most likely caused many former smokers to resume their habit.

Early on in the main story, you may remember that Jose had quit smoking, while now he has suddenly taken it back up again. Can you think of a reason why?

➡ In Italy, the legal age for smoking is 16. It is not unusual to see many teenagers smoking as you wander down an Italian street.

The World of Gunslinger Girl

Nowadays, cell phones are an undeniable fact of life. Many people wouldn't know what to do with themselves without one. However, Italians may be *even more* attached to their cell phones than we are!

CELL
PHONES
IN ITALY

■ Two Cell Phones Per Person

Italians take communication between family and friends very seriously, making cell phones an irreplaceable convenience. When cell phones were first introduced, Italy was the first European country where cell phone contracts outnumbered landline contracts. Italians love to chat, and they will call friends and family for no reason other than to hear their voice. Texting is also very common.

Italians tend to keep separate phones for work and private use. In the main storyline, Rossana had several cell phones, one for each of her professional personas. The penetration rate of cell phones in Italy is over an astounding 150%, making Italy one of the top countries in the world for cell phone usage.

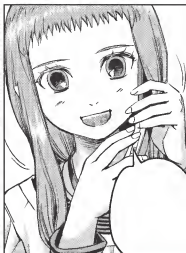
■ Choose Any Brand You Want, Pay as You Go

As in the US and Canada, the vast majority of Italians use SIM card cell phones. However, a big difference is that in Italy, cell phone manufacturers are legally required to release the SIM-lock on a phone 18 months after purchase. In other words, 18 months into a contract, cell phone users can switch to any type and brand of cell phone, regardless of their carrier's affiliations. While this may seem strange to us, it is the norm across Europe.

Paying for a cell phone is predominantly done via pre-paid minutes, and there is no base fee for usage. Once your minutes get low, you simply recharge your card with more minutes, with no worry about usage fees or huge phone bills, should you lose track and go over your allotment. Card recharging can be done at many places, including tabacchi stores. With this kind of convenience, it's no surprise that cell phones have become an integral part of Italian life.

■ Can't Stop Talking

Considering how quickly Italians took to cell phones, it comes as no surprise that there are already several laws and regulations regarding their usage. However, in a big city, it's almost as if those laws don't exist.



No matter where you go, there is always the sound of someone's cell phone ringing, and everyone around you is chatting away. While it is illegal to drive and talk on a cell phone, there is no regulation against talking on the train.

→ Jose's little sister, Enrica had a cell phone, too. Useful not only for keeping in touch, but also with the cooking?

The World of Gunslinger Girl

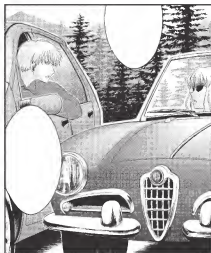
DRIVING IN ITALY

Italy is renowned for its high-end cars, like Ferrari and Maserati. Perhaps because of its citizens' generally impatient temperament, it is also renowned for its poor traffic manners.

■ Double & Triple-Parking

Though a toughening of traffic laws in 2006 helped to reduce the frequency, drivers in Japan will still doublepark. However, in Italy, it is far worse. Drivers double and even triple-park in the middle of busy city streets, without a thought about whether anyone else can get by or get out. Unsurprisingly, there is a lot of bumping and dinging between cars when parking. It is said some drivers will even deliberately butt up against a parked car to shove it out of the way!

One of the largest causes of such widespread bad parking behavior is the relative lack of parking lots and garages in Italian cities. Italian attitudes are another major reason. Most people probably double-park with the intention of "only being a minute." However, the affable Italians love to chat, and even after their errand is finished, it is very easy for them to get side-tracked for an hour or more while talking to neighbors.



← Alfa Romeo is an Italian auto manufacturer. Franca was quite proud of her domestic car.

■ Driving My Way

Unlike in the US, traffic laws are not strictly enforced, so many Italians drive however they see fit. Some will even angrily honk their horn at you for stopping at a red light! Some drivers will turn without signaling, and some will drive straight for miles without turning their signal off. Speed limits are rarely enforced, so many drivers will drive as fast as they want. Free-wheeling and easy-going, Italians drive wherever and however they want.

■ Italian Traffic Law

Despite appearances, there are traffic laws in place, and fines for disobeying them. In 2008, a law was passed to suspend the licenses of drivers who caused accidents while driving under the influence of alcohol. And in 2011, a law targeting the younger—and most accident-prone—driver demographic limited the horsepower in cars they are allowed to drive.

Though the laws are getting progressively stricter, there are still stories like this: A Japanese man who incurred a parking ticket while traveling in Italy voluntarily paid the ticket after he had returned home to Japan. The Italian media flocked to his story, praising him as an exemplar of driving courtesy. While the sentiment is greatly appreciated, it would be nice if Italy worked a little harder to prevent traffic accidents and tickets in the first place.



← Recently, a law was proposed to ban smoking while driving, but it was struck down. Given how much Italians love their tobacco, this isn't surprising.

The World of Gunslinger Girl

ITALIANS AND SOCCER

Soccer is one of the most popular sports in Europe, but Italians are especially passionate about it. The 2006 *Calciopoli* Italian Football Scandal, in which many high-profile teams were accused of rigging matches, damaged the sport's popularity, but it is still regarded by most as Italy's national pastime. The first match of the 2010 World Cup game versus South Africa earned ratings over 70%. Let us take a closer look at the sport that captivates almost every Italian.

■ It's not "Football," it's "Calcio."

Called "soccer" in the US and Japan, the sport originated in England as "football." Thus, most countries know it by a variant of that name (i.e. France: "football." Spain: "futbol"). However, in Italy, it is called "calcio." This name comes from "calcio storico," a sport similar to English Football that has been played in Florence for centuries. Thus, unlike the other Romance languages, Italian has unique words for football terminology, most of which come from their own sport of calcio storico.

■ Italian Power Leagues

There are over 100 teams in the Italian professional calcio league. When you include in the amateur teams, that number climbs to over *eight thousand*. That should give you an idea of how popular calcio is in Italy.

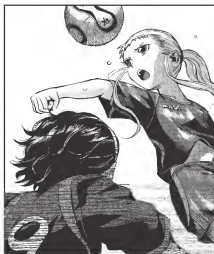
The professional league is divided into four tiers, called Serie, based on team strength. Serie A is composed of the strongest pro teams, while Serie D has the weakest. Below that are the multiple tiers of amateur play. Teams can climb or fall throughout the four Serie, based on how well they perform. Teams can even move between professional and amateur status. In Italy, calcio matches are truly bouts where only the strong survive, and the weak are relegated to amateur status.

■ Football Pools – "Totocalcio"

In Italy, it is hard to discuss calcio without bringing up "totocalcio," football pools. When weekend matches loom, Italian men will talk about almost nothing else (conversely, Italian women are nearly uninterested). A form of gambling, it is so popular that it is practically a cultural phenomenon rather than a hobby. In recent years, however, fixed-odds betting has become more popular, as there is less luck involved and people can participate over the Internet.

■ Italian Spectators

There are many, many football matches not only within a single country, but between countries in Europe. There's the World Cup, the UEFA European Football Championship, the UEFA Champion's League, and many more. When Italy plays in these matches, it's as if the entire country begins a national celebration. Next time the World Cup rolls around, enjoy watching not only the games, but also the passion of the Italian spectators.



→ In recent years, the Italian Women's teams haven't been doing so well. Maybe if Enrica had survived, she could have turned them around.

The World of Gunslinger Girl

COFFEE

You can find coffee shops on just about every street corner of every town in Italy, and the average Italian enjoys four to five cups of coffee a day. Let's take a closer look at this popular beverage.

■ Espresso First

In Japan, most coffee-drinkers go for drip-coffee, but in Italy, espresso is more prevalent. Espresso is a more concentrated type of coffee, brewed by forcing boiling hot water through very finely ground coffee beans.

The first espresso was brewed at the beginning of the 20th century, when Milan-based Bezzerà experimented with a steam-powered coffee maker. Brewing a whole pot of coffee took quite some time, but with Bezzerà's steam-powered coffee maker, a fresh cup could be brewed to order. Not only that, the coffee they brewed was stronger and more refreshing than anything that had come before. This new type of coffee, espresso, became an overnight sensation.

Cappuccino, made by adding steamed milk to espresso, is another popular beverage. Fragrant and tasty, it can also be visually pleasing when pretty designs are drawn into the thick foam on its top. Then there is *café macchiato*, espresso with a dash of regular milk. Switch things around—milk with a dash of espresso—and you have a *café latte*. There are many interesting and tasty varieties of espresso to enjoy.

■ Coffee Bars

There are two main types of coffee shops in Italy. First is the *café*, a small shop that can be found on just about any street corner. This is what one generally thinks of when picturing a coffee shop. However, the second type is the one Italians tend to frequent most often: bars. Unlike many North American bars, these bars primarily serve coffee. They differ from *café*s in that customers stand to drink. Some bars do offer seating, but the price goes up if a customer wants to sit down. These are places where one can quickly duck inside to grab a cup while waiting to meet someone, or on the way home from work. (I would not be surprised if chatty Italians spent lengthy amounts of time there, standing, sipping, and talking.) Most bars stay open late into the night and, after certain hours, they may serve alcohol as well.

Like *café*s, bars can be found just about anywhere, and given the time, most Italians will stop and visit their favorite one. Besides coffee, bars also offer light snacks and even wine for purchase. Most bars are right next to, or even part of *tabacchi* stores, and the two together create an Italian version of a convenience store.

↕ → Italians who specialize in brewing coffee are called "baristas," and there are coffee brewing competitions all over the world.



The World of Gunslinger Girl

CHRISTMAS

Given that the Vatican, the seat of the Catholic Church, lies within its borders, it is no surprise that Italy is a very Catholic country. Thus Christmas (called "Natale" in Italian), along with Easter, is the biggest holiday in Italy. So what do Italians do during Natale? Let's find out...

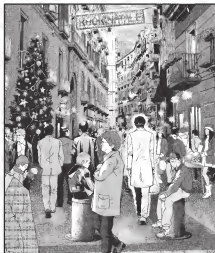
■ One Big, Long Festival

The Italian Natale nearly as long as Christmas does in the US and Canada, with decorations going up as early as the latter half of November. The December 8th holiday in honor of the Virgin Mary marks the beginning of the celebration proper. Stores and shops will stay open 24 hours, even on Sundays, and "mercatinì di natale"—Christmas markets—will be set up in most towns and cities. Families gather together and enjoy great feasts on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The festival mood continues all the way into the new year, until January 6th. In all, the Natale celebration lasts almost an entire month. New Year's festivities are included in the general holiday atmosphere at this time of the year, so most Italians will greet each other with the roundabout "Buone Feste" (Happy Holidays).

■ Natale Presepio

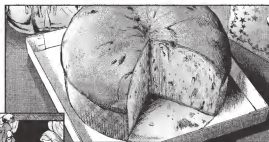
Starting on December 8th, families decorate their homes and yards with the Natale Presepio, the Nativity Scene. However, by Italian custom, the scene does not include the baby Jesus until Christmas Eve, when the youngest member of the family will add the figure. Along with the Christmas tree, the Natale Presepio is the most traditional of Italian holiday decorations.

➔ During Natale, homes and city streets are decorated with Christmas trees and colorful lights.



■ The Natale Treat – Panettone

The most common Natale treat in Italy is panettone. Earlier in the main story, you may remember Hilshire bought one for Triela. A type of sweet bread, panettone is almost cake-like, and is filled with sweet fruits, like raisins and candied orange.



↑ Italy's traditional Natale sweet, panettone is much like a pound cake.

Panettone is made with fresh butter, eggs, and a type of yeast unique to Italy, known as "panettone yeast." Italians love this treat so much that many say if it isn't made with the very freshest ingredients, it can't be called true "panettone."

First made in Milan, panettone is now enjoyed not only throughout Italy, but throughout the entire world.

➔ Naples is widely regarded as the birthplace of the Natale Presepio. There are even stores which specialize only in accessories and decorations for the Presepio.



The World of Gunslinger Girl

EATING OUT

With the push against smoking increasing in the US and Canada, I am sure many smokers are feeling a little left out in the cold. In *Gunslinger Girl*, Sandro, Jean and several other characters smoke. Let's take a look at tobacco and smoking in Italy.

■ Different Types of Eateries

If you are looking to enjoy a leisurely sit-down meal, you can visit a *ristorante*, a *trattoria*, or an *osteria*. Generally, *ristorante* are high-class restaurants. *Trattoria* are a less expensive type of restaurant. The least expensive type are *osteria*, which are more like bars.

On the other hand, if you simply want a quick, light meal, you can never forget the famous *pizzeria*. There are *rosticceria* and *tavola calda* as well. *Pizzeria*, of course, specialize in serving pizza. *Rosticceria* are much like delis. *Tavola calda* are similar to cafeterias, where the food is made ahead of time and warmed upon order. Diners can either grab their meal and go, or they can sit down at a table and enjoy. These kinds of places are popular with local families and businessmen who don't have time for a long lunch.

With so many different kinds of eateries available, how is a tourist supposed to find the best one to visit? Ask the local residents. Ask the hotel bellhop, the taxi driver, or a passerby on the street, "*Ristorante a buon mercato?*" (What restaurant do you recommend?) They will gladly point out to you their personal favorite places to eat.

■ Reserve Ahead of Time

If you choose to try a *ristorante* or a popular local eatery, it would be wisest to put in a reservation ahead of time. Italians love to enjoy their meals at a leisurely pace, meaning that seats will not open up very quickly, so be prepared to wait if you don't call ahead.

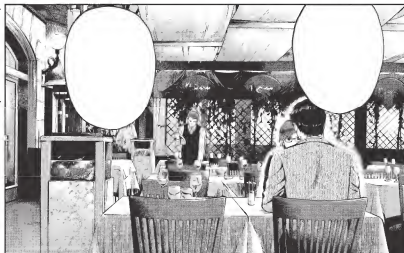
■ Menu Items

Like Italian restaurants in Canada and the US, *ristorante* menus are divided into sections, such as *anti-pasto* (appetizers), *primo piatto* ("first dish," such as pasta or risotto), and so forth.

■ The Check

After a pleasant meal, the Italian custom is to enjoy an after-dinner espresso or alcoholic drink and then ask for the check. Checks are paid at the table at a *ristorante*, so you simply wait while the server handles

→ Dress nicely and have your best manners on display when eating at a restaurant. Also, remember that smoking is banned at all eateries in Italy.



your check. The arrival of the check is generally a signal that you are expected to leave soon, so have patience if it takes some time for your server to return with it. Besides paying for the meal, a *ristorante* will also charge a fee called a *coperto*. It is, basically, a cover charge. The fancier the restaurant, the higher the charge. Remember to check a *ristorante's* *coperto* before making your reservations.

The World of Gunslinger Girl

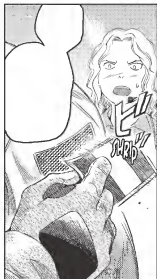
The word "tricolore" usually brings up images of the French national flag, with its three blocks of color: blue, white and red. However, "tricolore" simply means "three colors," and it can be used to name any flag that is comprised mainly of three colors. The Italian flag, with three stripes of green, white, and red, is also called the Tricolore. Let's take a closer look at its history.

THE TRICOLORE

■ The Origin of Italy's Flag

Italy formally adopted the Tricolore in 1946, but the flag's origins go as far back as the 18th century. When Napoleon conquered Italy at the head of his French army, it was decided that a flag similar to the French national flag would be used to represent Napoleon's new territory. Thus the close similarity between France's blue-white-red flag and Italy's green-white-red flag.

When Napoleon's control of Italy fell apart, the Tricolore temporarily vanished from history. However, it was resurrected in the 19th century, when the movement to unify Italy began. Italy has broken apart and reformed more than once since then, but the flags chosen were always based on the green-white-red scheme, with perhaps a device or symbol added. The present version of the Tricolore was officially adopted at the birth of the Italian Republic in 1946.



■ The Meaning of the Colors

The colors of the Tricolore each have meaning. The green symbolizes the verdant countryside. The white stands for snow, justice, and peace; and the red for passion and the blood of Italy's patriots.

As Italians love their food, some enterprising spirits decided to assign symbolic foods to each of the colors: green for basil, white for pasta, and red for tomato sauce. Fairly accurate, don't you think?

■ Flying (in) the Tricolore

In the Italian Air Force, there is a special air-stunt team that is also called the Tricolore. Their official name is the *Frecce Tricolori*, meaning the "tri-colored arrows." The team flies up to 10 planes at once, the highest number of any air demonstration team in the world. Though the Italian Army is the butt of many jokes, the *Frecce Tricolori*, formed in 1961, is one of the very top air demonstration teams in the world.



■ A Common Dilemma?

Outside of Italy, Italian restaurants are displaying the Tricolore more and more often. However, common errors in its display have many Italians more than a little miffed. They often get the colors in the wrong order, and sometimes the red and the green are switched. Other times, due to printing errors, the red comes out more like orange. More than one country has a tri-colored flag, so people must be very careful when replicating one of them.

↑ In the main story, readers can get a glimpse of Ashiq and Emma's feelings regarding the Tricolore.



1
MOUNTAINS

The country of Italy is comprised of the long "boot" of the Italian Peninsula, the large islands of Sicily and Sardinia, and a multitude of smaller islands around the peninsula. All in all, the country covers about 300,000km², about 4/5ths the size of Japan.

Like Japan, the majority of Italy's land is mountainous (Italy: 77%, Japan: 73%). Most of those mountains are part of two major mountain ranges: the Alps and the Apennines. The Alps, famous around the world, form the country's northern border. The Apennines form the spine that runs down the middle of the "boot." Though not as well known as the Alps, the Apennine Mountains cover almost half of Italy's entire landmass.

Any talk about Italy's mountains would not be complete without mentioning the volcanoes. Europe's tallest active volcano, Mount Etna, is in Sicily. Then there is perhaps Europe's most famous volcano, Mount Vesuvius, which destroyed the ancient city of Pompei. Italy boasts 14 volcanoes in total.

A Lot Like Japan? ITALY'S LAND

Most people have probably heard of the Vatican, home of the Pope and the center of the Roman Catholic Church. Did you know it is the world's smallest independent state? The entire nation is a walled enclave inside of the city of Rome. About 110 acres in area, it is almost as big as the Tokyo Disney Resort. Inside are many world-famous cultural treasures, such as the Sistine Chapel, making it a popular tourist destination.

Vatican City isn't the only independent nation within Italy. There is also the Republic of San Marino in the northeast. Nations inside of a nation... It's hard to imagine, isn't it?

3
ITALY'S INTERIOR

When thinking of Italy, many people probably think about stunning ocean vacations. With the Adriatic and the Ionian Seas to the east, the Ligurian and the Tyrrhenian Seas to the west, and the Mediterranean Sea to the south, Italy is surrounded by five different seas.

Surprisingly, despite being surrounded by so much water, Italy does not have a booming fishing industry. The reason is the lack of plankton—the food that many fish eat—in the surrounding waters, so there aren't many fish in the first place. Of course, this is also what makes Italy's sea waters so clear and beautiful. All in all, Italy's seas are perfect for vacationing, but not so great for fishing.

2
SEAS



↑ The Croce family's summer home is in Taormina, a town on the coast of Sicily. Its summers are hot and dry, but it is close enough to the water that ocean breezes make it comfortable.

Italy is on almost the same latitude as the US and Japan and, like those countries, it has four distinct seasons to enjoy. In the spring, trees and flowers bloom; and in the winter, it snows. However, seeing as Italy is very long from north to south (it covers 11 degrees of latitude), the weather is not exactly the same across the entire country. There can be some very large temperature differences between the far north and the far south. For example, the northern city of Milan has an average high temperature of about 64°F and an average low temperature of 48°F. The southern city of Catania has an average high of 73°F and an average low of 55°F. There is generally a difference of 4 - 5°F between the north and the south.

1 REGIONAL DIFFERENCES

Enjoy the Four Seasons! ITALY'S WEATHER

Besides latitude, you cannot forget the effect of elevation on the temperature. Much of Italy is in mountainous regions, and several of the tallest mountains are snow-capped all year round.

While Italy's weather is much like Japan's, there is one large difference: Italy doesn't have a rainy season. Japan has one, thanks to the Pacific Ocean, which develops a stationary and very wet front that stalls out across the country from May to July. The Mediterranean Sea doesn't do this for Italy. Instead, it develops a high-pressure zone which forces all the moisture away, and—well, let's not bother with all the boring details.

Instead, let's just say that muggy, soggy, and dreary weather just doesn't fit with the sunny and fun-loving Italian personality! (^_^)

3 No Rainy Season?

Let's take a look at Italy's four seasons. First, of course, is spring. As in Japan and the US, spring is a time of blooming flowers. The temperature is pleasant enough that many start swimming as early as May. However, the mountains are still so cool that you could go skiing if you chose.

Next is summer, which is dry and hot in the Mediterranean sun. A hat and sunglasses are nearly mandatory for going out into the sun. However, night-time temperatures are very cool, almost chilly. Summer is the Italians' favorite season for going on vacations, either to the cool mountains or to the warm beaches.

Fall is another pleasant season, when the leaves change colors and many towns celebrate harvest festivals. In the warmer south, people can swim as late as October, but the evenings will be very chilly.

Last but not least is winter. The north gets very cold, and snowy days are frequent. Even as far south as Sicily, snow will fall once every few years. The air is very crisp and clean at this time of year, making it a good season to enjoy the scenery.

2 FOUR SEASONS

2

ETHNICITIES

Thanks to Italy's long history of breaking up, then reforming, only to split apart and reform again, the Italian population is comprised of people with many different regional and national ethnicities. There are Latin, Celtic, Germanic, Greek, and many other European ethnicities, all of which mix together to make up the bulk of the purely "Italian" population. Then there are several large minorities, such as the Tyrol and the Albanians.

Considering Italy was originally a multitude of entirely separate and independent city-states, many Italians feel a strong connection with their regions and their cultural history. Italy is also a country that actively welcomes immigrants, so a growing percentage of the population is foreigners. While that brings new cultures into Italy, it has also created problems such as illegal immigration and a rising crime rate.



⬇️⬇️
The Padania terrorists, like Enrra here, had a distinctly racist view of blacks and Arabs, like Ashiq. As in many other countries, Italy has a problem with discrimination.



1

AGING POPULATION

According to the 2010 census, Italy has a population of about 59 million, just about half of Japan's population. That may sound small at first, but to put it in perspective, Italy is the 4th most populous country in Europe.

One of the biggest problems that Italy is facing right now is their aging population, which is the second oldest in the entire world. Accordingly, Italy is paying very close attention to what is happening in the country with the world's oldest population, which is Japan.

As Italy's population is forecasted to grow even older, Italian leaders are very interested indeed to see how Japan deals with the issue.

They're Serious-Minded! THE ITALIAN PEOPLE

Let's talk a little about the Italian personality. The common image of Italians is of a sunny and gregarious people who love to chat. That type of personality is actually seen mainly in the south. Conversely, the Italians in the north are quieter, insular, and more serious. It is said the environment can shape personalities. Compared to the northerners, southern Italians have it much harder, but they are more cheerful. Perhaps they just like looking for the silver lining.

So, like many other aspects of the country, Italians can be very different by region. Of course, when it comes to personality, there are always going to be individual differences. Perhaps there are even shy and bashful types, too!

3

ITALIAN PERSONALITY

Italy is world-renowned for several of its agricultural products, such as wine and pasta. Rich soils of various types, good farmland at different elevations, and excellent weather are some of the factors that make Italy one of Europe's premier agricultural countries.

The wet summers of the northern flatlands are perfect for growing wheat and rice, the main ingredients in pasta and risotto. The dry, high elevations of the south provide excellent growing conditions for grapes and olives, which go into making Italy's famous wines and olive oils.



↑ When Pinocchio went into hiding, he stayed at a vineyard in Frascati, an area famous for its wines.

Livestock farms are also scattered across the country, raising cows, sheep, and even water buffalo. These animals provide the ingredients used in cheese, a staple of Italian cooking. Other farms raise ducks for their meat and eggs.

2 PRESTIGIOUS AGRICULTURE

What is the first thing you think of when you hear the phrase "Made in Italy"? Pasta, wine, cheese, and other foods? Or maybe famous sports cars, like Ferrari and Alfa Romeo. Then there are fashion brands, like Gucci and Prada, as well.

At first glance, it may seem like this is one area where Japan and Italy are very different. However, let us look at the percentage of workers employed in the various industries, according to the 2008 census.

- Primary Industry (Farming, Fishing, etc.): 3.8%
- Secondary Industry (Manufacturing, Construction, etc.): 29.1%
- Tertiary Industry (Service Jobs): 67.1%

These percentages are almost exactly the same as Japan's. So in geography, climate, and industry ratios, Italy and Japan are quite similar.

1 INDUSTRY TYPES

It's Not Just Pasta! ITALIAN INDUSTRY

Italy's rich traditional crafts, with their long and storied histories, are another vital industry. One of the most famous is from Venice: Venetian glass. This high-quality glass is often used in exquisite decorative items, and it has a history stretching back all the way to the 7th century!

Another famous craft can be found to the southeast of Milan, in the city of Cremona. There, the Amati, Stradivari, and Guarneri families have been making world-renowned violins for centuries. In the main story, Henrietta carried an Amati.

These, along with many other crafts with centuries of tradition, are still being practiced all across Italy.

4 TRADITIONAL CRAFTS



↑ Back in Chapter 69, Enrica spotted an old model Fiat Panda.

After the end of World War II, Italian industry entered a period of rapid expansion, mainly in the North. Rome and Milan became Italy's biggest industrial centers. The most prominent industry is, of course, cars. Ferrari, Alfa Romeo, and many other famous Italian car makers sell their products across the entire world, providing valuable support to the Italian economy.

According to statistics from 2009, the top-selling new car in all of Europe was the Fiat Panda, another Italian model.

Besides cars, other important Italian industries are manufacturing and the chemical industry.

3 INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

2

CUISINE

Like fashion, Italian cuisine is famous worldwide. Let's take a look, not at what foods are eaten, but what Italian mealtimes are like.

For many people, the image of Italian mealtimes is one of many people coming together at a sunny outdoor table, eating lots of food, drinking lots of wine, and having a grand old time. However, in reality, this is something that will only happen on special occasions. Instead, mealtimes are a smaller, simpler affair. Many people may even skip breakfast entirely! But even with simple meals, Italian tastes are exacting, and they insist on dishes seasoned to their satisfaction.

1

CLOTHING

When thinking about Italian fashion, several world-famous fashion brands spring immediately to mind. It would not be surprising if many think of Italy as a fashion-conscious country. Unlike Japan, where many young people will scour fashion magazines to find the latest celebrity outfit to mimic, many Italians tend to avoid wearing what everyone else is wearing. Instead, they may take only one part of a trend and incorporate it into their own personal style. Italians prefer expressing their individuality over following trends.

The Necessities of Life ITALIAN LIFESTYLE

Most Italians view a house as something that will stay in the family for generations. Radical redecorations are avoided, with any renovations staying as true to the original design as possible—right down to the materials used.

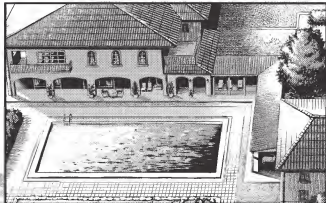
When visiting Japan, many Europeans are likely to be surprised at the mismatched hodge-podge of housing and wandering streets. Given the scenic townscapes they are accustomed to seeing, that isn't very surprising.

3

HOMES

In Japan, new homeowners like to choose exactly how and where their home will be built, down to what amenities it will have. Thus, there will be tall apartment complexes next to traditional Japanese estates, or standard 2-story homes crammed onto a narrow strip of land.

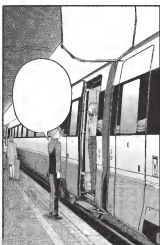
However, in Italy, it is very different. There are strict laws dictating which kind of homes can be built where, in order to preserve attractive views and skylines. In historical residential districts, official government permission is even required to change the paint on a house's exterior walls!



← The Croce family owns their own home in Rome. However, in the cities, almost all residences are apartments or housing complexes. Only the rich or those living in the countryside own their houses.

First, let's start with the most popular mode of public transportation: the train. In Italy, the train is a cheap and easy way to get around. There are local trains, called Regionale, that stop at most small towns and villages. Then there is Eurostar, the high-speed rail line that connects Italy's major cities; and EuroCity, a long-range international rail line that crisscrosses all of Europe.

Like Japan, railways are a popular choice in Italy because of their prevalence. However, there are many differences. For one, the trains are not always punctual. In fact, though it has gotten better in recent years, it is not unusual for trains to be over 10 minutes late. Though, to be fair, this is something that happens all over Europe. In fact, to Europeans, Japanese trains probably seem too punctual! (˘_˘)



Another common occurrence in Italy, though rare in Japan, are railway strikes. These happen a few times each year. Notices of a strike are put up ahead of time, so travelers can change their plans to avoid service disruptions.

◀ When Rossana escaped Italy, she took the EuroCity bullet train that connects Italy to Switzerland.

Italian train stations generally don't have wicket gates, like the stations in Japan. Instead, you use ticket machines and have your ticket time-stamped, and then you get on the train. That may seem like an invitation for freeloaders, but train conductors regularly check for tickets on the train, and if anyone is caught freeloading, they can be subject to a big fine. Some big-city stations even have conductors lined up on the platform to check for tickets as passengers get off. If they are going to go that far, wouldn't it be easier just to use wickets, like in Japan?

Don't Get Lost ITALIAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Besides trains and buses, there are also airplanes, ferries, and taxis available to help people get around. However, in Italy, you have to be a little cautious of the taxis. If you would like to use one, you must either go to a taxi station or call ahead to have one come and get you. Unlike most other countries, you can't simply hail one from the curb. If a taxi pulls up and offers you a ride, this is unusual, and it is best not to accept it.

One last public transport that all travelers should try at least once are the gondolas of Venice. In a city crisscrossed by canals, the gondolas are not only a tourist attraction—they are also a good way to get around!

OTHER
WAYS

Like trains, buses are a cheap and easy way to get around Italy. There are long routes which connect the various major cities, and smaller local routes that wind their way through towns and villages. One unusual point is that, unlike most countries where you pay for your fare on the bus, in Italy you buy a bus ticket at the nearby bar or tabacchi store. And, as with the trains, there are stiff fines for riding without a ticket, so don't forget to buy one before getting on!

One inconvenient thing about Italian buses is that it can be hard to find a bus station, and even harder to figure out which bus is the one you want. Again, Japan has very prominent maps and bus guides, so it can be frustrating to people accustomed to that when using public transportation abroad. Another thing to watch out for is that the bus stop on the way back may not be directly across the street. It could be somewhere very far away! Once you get off the bus, it may be wise to check the stop right away for your return bus.

1
BY
TRAIN

2
BY
BUS

GUNSLINGERGIRL

DEATH TRAP!

The *Gunslinger Girl* saga comes to a heart-pounding denouement as the scattered factions of the Five Republics have united together under the leadership of the terrorist Giacomo Dante. Utilizing a cache of stolen cruise missiles, the terrorists unleash a series of devastating attacks across the Italian Peninsula and seize control of the New Turin Nuclear Plant. Their demand is simple: send in the Social Welfare Agency or die.

With vengeance burning in his heart, handler Jean Croce leads the Agency's assault, knowing full well that they are walking straight into Dante's mastermind trap—and that heavy casualties are inescapable.



OLDER TEEN (16+)

Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC.
www.gomanga.com
Distributed by Macmillan